

Hafa Adai!

COVID-19 delta variant identified in the CNMI. **PAGE 4**
DPS on the hunt for San Jose Market robber. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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Prepaid cards as stimulus funds

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Finance will soon disburse the long-awaited CNMI local stimulus but not the way previous stimulus funds were distributed in the past. This time, local taxpayers can expect to receive their stimulus funds through a prepaid card that will be issued by the department.

According to an announcement on the DOF website, each taxpayer will receive a prepaid card in the mail in place of the regular paper checks and bank deposits. These cards will be issued with instructions on how to activate these cards. To ensure that the money is

circulated within the CNMI economy and is not used elsewhere, these cards are geo-restricted so they can't be used See PREPAID on Page 4

State funeral honors Blanco



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres delivers his eulogy during yesterday's state funeral for late representative Ivan James Blanco at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Representatives of the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Japan, and the Philippines joined the CNMI at the state funeral to pay tribute to

the life and services of the late lawmaker Ivan James Alafonso Blanco at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday morning.

Blanco, 45, passed away last July 23 of massive pul-

monary embolism. He was a member of the 20th, 21st, and 22nd CNMI legislatures.

Several officials, including Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sa-

See FUNERAL on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:56pm, Aug. 5, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **72.5%**
Days since last community transmission **135**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	28,025
Fully Vaccinated:	26,043
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,344
Fully Vaccinated:	4,092
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	580

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,623	29	8,652
Recovered	8,361	3	8,364
Active	116	29	145
Deaths	143	0	143

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	198	0	198
Traced via Travel Screening	161	0	161
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Let's get vaccinated so we can get our schools reopened safely

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By MIKE SABLAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mike Sablan is vice president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc. and chairperson of the Domestic Policy and Recovery Committee of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. As an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.

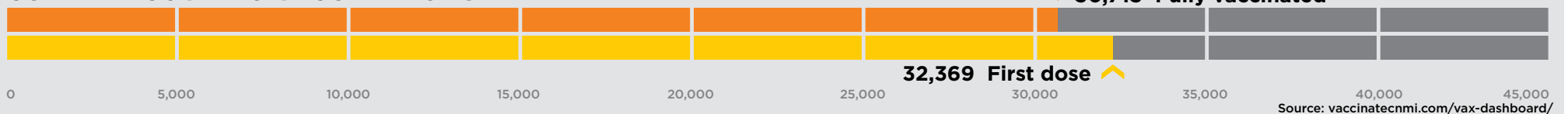


The pandemic has caused extraordinary disruptions to education across the globe. During the onset of the crisis, schools in the Marianas closed before implementing online classes. Students then persevered against the challenges of blended learning as schools mixed remote classes with sporadic face-to-face sessions

See TOGETHER on Page 4

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

30,715 Fully vaccinated



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE



LOCAL

Pacific Rim is working on setting up a CNMI-based airline that would target Australian tourists.

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LOCAL

Sugar King wins the Battle of the bands at the Hafa Adai & Tirow Summer Jam.

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LOCAL

The Community Guidance Center certifies 12 on Tinian in Adult Mental Health First Aid.

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Offer available in the CNM units August 31, 2021. Promotional rates based on 36-month device installments on the NOW program. While supplies last. Subject to credit checks. Some conditions apply.

Local

Man arrested for alleged stalking

A man who was arrested for allegedly stalking his former girlfriend remains in Department of Corrections custody after failing to post bail.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan maintained the \$7,500 cash bail on Sergio M. Rangamar, 44, a man who is accused of stalking his former girlfriend.

The defendant was ordered to return to court on Aug. 12 at 1:30pm for a preliminary hearing before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo, and again on Aug. 23 at 9am to be arraigned before Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja.

According to court documents, Rangamar's former girlfriend had told police that Rangamar used to beat her up when they were still together. The victim claims that Rangamar was controlling, abusive, and was on drugs, specifically methamphetamine.

She told police that she and Rangamar were in a relationship from 2011 to 2012 before he suddenly moved to the U.S. mainland.

On May 8, while the victim was working a graveyard shift, Rangamar allegedly showed up at the Commonwealth

Health Center emergency room at around 12am after allegedly lying that he needed medical attention. The victim claims he walked up to her work station to greet her "Happy Mother's Day" and leaned in for a hug, which she refused. The defendant then stated, "I want my kids" before leaving.

On May 10, the victim said she received a call from her sister who told her that Rangamar drove to her mother's house to contact her. A few days later, on May 14, while she was leaving CHC after her graveyard shift, the victim said she saw Rangamar standing in the parking lot near the emergency room so she immediately went back inside.

The victim also told police that she had been seeing the same vehicle outside her apartment for the past two weeks but was unsure whether it belonged to Rangamar because the person inside had the seat leaned back and wore a cap that covered the person's face. She later confirmed that it was indeed Rangamar after seeing the same vehicle at the gas station Rangamar operates and he was allegedly wearing the same hat. **(Kimberly B. Esmores)**

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DPS on the hunt for San Jose Market robber

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is on the hunt for a man who was caught on surveillance video robbing the San Jose Market early Tuesday morning, stealing over \$5,000 in cash.

According to a report from DPS, the case of the San Jose robbery remains an open investigation and anyone with information that could lead to an arrest may receive up to \$1,000.

Based on the surveillance footage, the suspect is a medium-built man wearing a red hat, gray hoodie, white face mask, a pair of black shorts, and a pair of black slippers.

For those who want to remain anonymous, they may call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272.

"This case is ongoing. If you or anyone you know recalls seeing an individual matching the description, we ask for your assistance in notifying the authorities. Please



This frame grab from the San Jose Market surveillance video shows the man who robbed the store early Tuesday morning of over \$5,000 in cash. **DPS**

call 911. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest," the report stated.

According to police, DPS received a 911 call last Tuesday morning reporting a theft incident at the San Jose Market in San Jose. At the scene, police met with the caller who led police into the security office where the caller showed police a video of an unidentified individual walking throughout the store before making his way to the cash registers.

While watching the footage, police observed that the camera was time-stamped at about 1:39am.

The caller stated that a total of more than \$5,000 cash was taken from the store.

Saipan Tribune learned from multiple credible sources that the robbery could have been premeditated, with help from someone who works or previously worked at the store. The source explained that the robbery did not have to forcefully enter the building. Instead, he came in through the store's back entrance, which is usually heavily chained and locked from the inside.

The robber also knew exactly where all the sales of the day were stashed and picked out the currency he would not be able to use, for example: food stamp, WIC vouchers, and paper checks.

JGO Committee to call BMV director as witness

The House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee will resume this Monday its hearing into Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' travels and expenses, with Bureau of Motor Vehicle director Juana Leon Guerrero being called to testify at the House chamber at 1pm.

JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said in an interview that Leon Guerrero will appear with her counsel, Anthony Aguon.

Babauta said they will also approve at Monday's session more subpoenas for other witnesses to testify. She did not elaborate.

Last Wednesday's JGO hearing was postponed due to the passing of Rep. Ivan James Blanco.

The last JGO hearing into Torres' travels and expenses was on June 20 when special assistant for administration Mathilda A. Rosario completed her testimony.

Leon Guerrero is among seven DPS officials/police officers that the JGO had subpoenaed to appear and testify.

The six others are police officer Adrian Mendiola of the Boating Safety Unit, police officers Simon Manacop, Jose Saures, Daniel Joab, Alex Sakisat, and Joey Cruz, who is the personal driver/security detail of Torres.

The JGO has also summoned three others—Erin Camacho of the Women, Infants, and Children Program; former Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, and Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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COVID-19 delta variant identified in the CNMI

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force recently received confir-

mation that a COVID-19 specimen sent in July 2021 to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

was identified as the delta variant, B.1.617.2.

There is no current risk to the public.

The specimen came from a traveler who tested positive upon arrival in July 2021 from the U.S. mainland. The traveler was quarantined and had no close contacts who tested positive for COVID-19. CHCC regularly communicates with the CDC and sends all COVID-19 specimens to the CDC for sequencing.

According to the CDC, there has been verified reports of this variant in 115 different locations globally. The delta variant was first detected in the U.S. in March 2021. It is a variant of concern for which there is evidence of an increase in transmissibility.

CHCC and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force would like to remind residents to practice caution. With its increased transmissibility, it is even more important to get vaccinated and continue to practice the 3 Ws (wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance) to help prevent the creation of even more variants and spread of COVID-19.

Consider registering for COVID-19 vaccinations at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, by calling the CHCC call center at 682-SHOT (7468), or registering in person at any vaccination site. (PR)

FUNERAL

From Page 1

blan (Ind-MP), Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), delivered salutation remarks and eulogies that spoke of Blanco—popularly known as Jimbo—as a great friend, an honorable public servant, a wonderful dad and husband, and a true son of the Marianas and Micronesia.

“We will miss our friend and colleague, and this pain of loss is overshadowed by the deep sense of emptiness left in his absence,” Torres said.

Torres said that in all his trips with Blanco to the neighboring islands in the Pacific, Blanco was greeted as a dignitary and a friend. Whether it was the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the states of Chuuk, Pohnpei, or Palau, Blanco was a loved figure across the region. “This was not because of any title or position, but because of who he was. He understood our islands and our people. He was humble, kind, and had a sense of humor that put others at ease,” the governor said.

Torres said Blanco believed in bringing people together, and did so regularly, across ethnic communities, interest groups, and political affiliations. “He did so because he wanted to be a productive part of bringing these islands to a better future,” the governor said.

Lt. Gov. Palacios said Blanco's legacy is that of service, of kindness, of caring, of humanity, and of responsibility. Palacios said Blanco was one of the most down-to-Earth and good-natured individuals he's been blessed to know. “His willingness to work with others, his tact, his contagious good nature, and his witty good humor, made him a pleasure to work with,” Palacios said.

He said Blanco was a staunch advocate for education, and more specifically, education, upward mobility, and a better standard of living for the islands' young people.

While Blanco was a strong advocate for the Commonwealth, he never lost his Pacific-Island roots, Palacios said.

“Such great loss is never really healed by the passing of time, but we must carry one. This is what Con-



Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) lead lawmakers in presenting to Carmen Blanco Joint Resolution 22-02 that commends the life and legacy of service of the late representative.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

gressman Blanco would insist on and want us to do... to keep up the good work,” he added.

In his eulogy, Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) said the CNMI has lost a great leader, an astounding visionary, and a brilliant man, and that the news of Blanco's sudden and untimely passing came with a deep pain that people still feel to this day.

“In the past decade and a half, Jimbo, as he was affectionately known, committed himself to a life of service to the people and lands he so dearly loved,” he said.

The lawmaker said as a proud son of the Commonwealth and the FSM State of Chuuk, the Marianas and Micronesia were at the center of Blanco's career and his life's mission.

Demapan related that, upon hearing of the passing of Blanco, messages of condolences from all over the world began pouring in. He said FSM President David W. Panuelo wrote that Blanco was well known throughout Micronesia and a great mentor to the youth of the region.

Demapan said Chuuk Gov. Alexander Narruhn said Blanco inspired generations of young Chuukese to strive for excellence and to serve their communities.

He said Pohnpei Gov. Reed Oliver stated Blanco shall be remembered as a friend of Pohnpei and that his collaboration to achieve solutions for all island communities across Micronesia will forever be remembered and honored.

Demapan said people are truly blessed to be witnesses to the work and life of such an astounding servant leader.

“We are even more blessed to have shared our lives with the amazing and humorous person that he was. His smile was infectious. His voice was gentle. And his heart was gold,” Demapan said.

Others who also delivered remarks were Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan), FSM consul general Teresa M. Filipin, and Ach Chuuk-CNMI Association president Own Cholymay.

Torres and Palacios presented the CNMI State of Wreath to Blanco's family—wife Carmen Sablan Blanco, their children Lilly, Ivan Jr., Kideichy, and Page. His parents, Diego Blanco and Alin Alafanso, were also present.

Others that presented tributes were the CNMI Judiciary; mayors of Saipan, Tinian, Rota and the Northern Islands; municipal councils of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; Office of the Governor of Guam; Association of Pacific Island Legislatures; Consulate General of Japan; CNMI Youth Congress; CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities; Ach Chuuk-CNMI Association; CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources; and Saipan Agricultural Fair Association.

Blanco will be buried today, Friday, with a funeral Mass at Mount Carmel Cathedral from 9am to 10:30am and a Mass of Christian Burial at 11am.

PREPAID

From Page 1

outside of the CNMI.

“We are excited about the CNMI local stimulus. We view this as a special opportunity to help our islands during these difficult times. This money is to be spent within the CNMI for the purpose of helping our local economy. Each taxpayer will receive a prepaid card in the mail. Instructions with how to activate the card will be included in the envelope. The prepaid card has geo-restrictions in place so it won't be able to be used outside of the CNMI. ATM cash withdrawal won't work either. You are welcome to use the card at any of the local business on island that accept Visa card payments,” the announcement states.

The DOF website does not state when these cards will be issued.

However, DOF said in a previous statement that they will issue stimulus payments before Aug. 15.

The prepaid cards are similar to prepaid cards issued by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, which only allowed the purchase of necessary goods like food and clothing.

The funds in these prepaid cards cannot be withdrawn and are restricted to be spent at local businesses that accept Visa cards.

Eligible individuals include anyone who filed their 2020 tax returns in the CNMI and dependents listed on those tax returns.

Eligible individuals will receive \$500 and \$500 for each dependent.

For those who do not receive a prepaid debit card, did not receive the full amount, or lose their prepaid cards, they may email stimulus@dof.gov.mp and provide the personal information that appears on their 2020 tax filing.

TOGETHER

From Page 1

while adhering to strict safety protocols. Nearly all graduation ceremonies for two consecutive school years were hosted as drive-through events.

Hardworking and dedicated teachers, school officials, and support staff did their best to fulfill their duties in educating students safely, while parents found themselves more actively assisting their children with schoolwork. Families learned to navigate their way through these uncharted waters and are now seeing plans unfold for schoolchildren to return full-time to the classrooms.

As the start of the new school year nears, the threat of the pandemic remains ever-present. The CNMI Public School System and our healthcare officials are making a coordinated effort to get eligible students vaccinated. The newly launched “Vaccination for Education” campaign encourages students older than 12 years old to get fully vaccinated to help the Marianas reach the 80% target vaccination rate. The goal is to have 80% of the student population fully inoculated to allow for face-to-face classes five days a week. If the target is not met, public schools will hold double sessions, and students will be grouped into “static cohorts.” PSS will also increase risk mitigation measures, such as testing for COVID-19 in schools, requiring six-foot

social distancing, and suspending group and extracurricular activities.

While we acknowledge that online classes help students continue their studies during this time, experts are worried about the long-term effects of prolonged remote learning on students' mental, social, emotional, and academic development.

In a research conducted last year, developmental psychologists note how students talked a lot about how they missed having spontaneous and real conversations and relationships with their classmates and teachers. A UNESCO-Global Education Coalition study showed that more than 100 million children will fall below the minimum proficiency level in reading due to the impact of school closures. Not every student is geared for online learning or responds well to it.

Teachers are also affected by the disruption in education. They've had to modify lesson plans to work with online instruction, reduced time, limited resources, and short attention spans. On top of that, every student, teacher, and staff member face great risk with in-person learning if the school community does not achieve its 80% target vaccination rate. This is the most important step we can take as a community before the school year opens.

Let's work together to get vaccinated so the Marianas can reach its 80% vaccination rate. Together, we can protect our educators and children and get them back into the classrooms safely.



Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios delivers his remarks at the state funeral.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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GROUND PORK 73% 1LB  \$3⁴⁹	BLUE MUSSEL MEAT 2lb  \$7⁴⁹	NZ FROZEN SALMON FILLET S-ON B/O /LB  \$14⁴⁹/lb.	MILLER'S H/C BEEF FRANKS REG 4#  \$19⁹⁹	MILLER'S H/C BEEF HOT LINKS 4LBS  \$19⁹⁹	

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Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority
Office of the Governor
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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Honorable Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority would like to notify the General Public of the 4-Year Federal-Aid Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) Amendment-1. A Copy of the plan can be obtained at the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, Written comments must be submitted directly to the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, 2nd Floor Suite 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe or via email to: Special Assistant for Public Transportation, alfreda.camacho.maratita@gov.mp no later than **August 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

Should you have any questions regarding COTA (TIP), you may contact the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority at 664-2682. The Following are listed in the TTIP Amendment-1

CNMI Office of the Governor, The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority 4-year Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan: PROJECT FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Authority (FTA)

Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) FY2020-2023 Amendment #1						
District	Project Description	Type of Work	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
SAIPAN	COTA Administrative Building & Maintenance Facility	CM	\$590,000.00			
		Construction	\$3,500,000.00			
SAIPAN	A/E Design for the Fixed Route Bus Stops	PE Design			\$300,000.00	
SAIPAN	Supply & Installation of Thirty-Seven (37) Fixed Route Bus Stop Shelters	Construction			\$800,000.00	
		CM			\$209,500.00	
SAIPAN	Purchase of Twelve (12) Medium-Duty ADA Compliant Mobility Equipped Transit Buses for the Fixed Route	Rolling Stock		\$2,102,967.00		
SAIPAN	Construction of Bus Transfer Stations at the Northern Marianas College, Paseo De Marianas and Kagman	PE Design			\$70,000.00	
		Construction				\$700,000.00
SAIPAN	Supply of Maintenance Equipment & Tools for COTA Maintenance Facility	CM				\$130,000.00
		Equipment			\$400,000.00	
SAIPAN	Construction of the COTA Bus Covered Parking Structure	PE Design			\$351,000.00	
		Construction				\$2,700,000.00
SAIPAN	Supply & Installation of 187 Bus Stop Shelters on Public Transit Fixed Route	CM			\$300,000.00	
		PE Design			\$350,000.00	
Rota	Design & Construction of the Rota Transit Maintenance Facility	Construction			\$3,500,000.00	
		CM			\$650,000.00	
Tinian	Design & Construction of the Tinian Transit Maintenance Facility	PE Design			\$40,000.00	
		Construction				\$400,000.00
Rota & Tinian	Procurement of Four (4) ADA Compliant Mobility Equipped Transit Vans for Rota and Tinian Demand Responsive Services	CM			\$80,000.00	
		Rolling Stock			\$480,000.00	
Saipan	CNMI COVID-19 Research Demonstration	Research			\$300,000.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION			\$4,090,000.00	\$2,102,967.00	\$3,340,500.00	\$8,940,000.00

Funding Source	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
MP-04-0002-00 (Veterans Transportation One-Call/One-Click)	\$710,223.00			
MP-2019-001-00 (49 U.S.C. Section 5339- Bus and Bus Facilities)	\$3,224,567.00	\$2,102,967.00	\$1,009,500.00	
MP-18-X008-00 (Bus: Support Equipment, Facilities, and Operating Assistance)	\$155,210.00			
49 U.S.C. Section 5324: Federal Transit Administration Emergency Relief Program			\$351,000.00	
49 U.S.C. Section 5312: Covid-19 Research Demonstration			\$300,000.00	
H.R. 3684 INVEST in America Act			\$1,680,000.00	\$8,940,000.00
TOTAL OBLIGATION	\$4,090,000.00	\$2,102,967.00	\$3,340,500.00	\$8,940,000.00

USA Fanter proposes Clear Management as its receiver

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

USA Fanter Corp. Ltd. has proposed Clear Management Ltd. to serve as its receiver to carry out the auction of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's assets to satisfy a court judgment of \$2.1 million.

In its filed memorandum in support of the motion for limited appointment of receiver in aid of execution, USA Fanter, represented by lawyer Colin Thompson, asked the federal court to appoint Clear Management as the party's receiver.

If approved by the U.S District Court for the NMI, Clear Management will administer, collect, or sell any casino gaming property in which IPI has an interest, and to do any other acts required to satisfy the judgment of \$2,089,345.28.

According to Thompson, the appointment of a receiver is an appropriate remedy that is needed to satisfy USA Fanter's interest in IPI's assets, as well as to prevent the potential diminishment in value of those assets.

"The appointment of a receiver is necessary when the judgment debtor's holdings are illiquid and complex because enforcement of the judgment by the sheriff would be impractical and unduly burdensome, and an ordinary sheriff's sale is unlikely to result in the recovery of the full value of such assets. Finally, the U.S. Marshal's office will not engage in the sale of the assets in this civil matter," he said.

Thompson said he is also currently working with other creditors to reach an agreement on a fair and orderly way to sell IPI's various assets and distribute the proceeds.

If no agreement is reached, however, those creditors reserve the right to object to any proposed distribution of the sale proceeds for the assets that are the subject of this motion Thompson said.

USA Fanter also requested that it be awarded attorney's fees and costs incurred in its collection efforts.

In a previous order, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona of the District Court for the NMI granted the request of USA Fanter to issue a writ of execution against IPI so that its vehicles and casino gaming machines can be seized and sold to satisfy the over \$2 million judgment previously entered against the Saipan casino investor.

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GO WELL



Sugar King wins at Hafa Adai & Tirow Summer Jam

Sugar King bested six others to win top place and \$1,000 during the Battle of the bands at Saturday's Hafa Adai & Tirow Summer Jam.

A total of \$6,500 was given away to individuals who had received their COVID-19 vaccination and registered for the free raffle at the event.

The event, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, was held at Guma Sak-

man in Susupe, Saipan, and celebrated the reinstatement of international flights to the Marianas.

"The turnout at Saturday's event was a true testament from our community. They have missed our fun-filled events," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "Temperature checks were conducted for everyone upon entry, and the response to

the entertainment, food and drinks, and especially the cash raffle was very enthusiastic. A huge thank you to Turnkey Solutions for donating \$1,500."

Rounding out the Battle of the Bands winners were High Tide winning \$750 for second place and Hui Uke winning \$500 for third place. Other bands each received \$150 as consolation prize.

Among 12 food and drink vendors, Meals 4 U won first place and \$300 for having the best decorated booth. The Kid's Fishing Derby organized by Tasi to Table attract-

ed 33 young fishermen.

Festival-goers underwent a temperature check upon entry. COVID-19 vaccinations were also available at the festival.

The event was supported by Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Department of Land & Natural Resources, Department of Public Lands, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Department of Commerce, Saipan Mayor's Office, CNMI COVID-19 Task Force, Saipan Zoning Office, Coastal Management Re-



Marianas Visitors Authority's Marketing Specialist Justin Poon, left, gives temperature checks and wristbands to festivalgoers at the Hafa Adai & Tirow Summer Jam on July 31, 2021, in Saipan. **MVA**

sources, Turnkey Solutions, Marianas International Food Road to 80, and 500 Sails. Festival & Beer Garde on

The MVA will hold its annual signature Taste of The Fishing Base. **(MVA)**



Sugar King wins first place in the Battle of the Bands at the Marianas Visitors Authority's Hafa Adai & Tirow Summer Jam on July 31, 2021. **MVA**

Cooking contests at Taste festival

The 22nd Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on Aug. 27-29, 2021, will feature cooking contests for two dishes: *kadun pika* and *eskabeche*.

The annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority will be held at Garapan Fishing Base on Saipan and features international cuisines, live entertainment, and arts and crafts sales. The festival will begin at 4pm on the first day (Aug. 27) and at 5pm on Aug. 28 and 29, ending at 10pm on all three days.

Kadun pika is stewing chicken with a healthy dose of garlic and other seasoning, including *donne*, the potent local hot pepper. *Eskabeche* is fish dish with a vinegar-based sauce and fresh vegetables.

"To showcase our indigenous cultures and support sustainable living, this year's cooking contests at Taste of the Marianas will exclusively feature dishes from the Marianas," said MVA managing director Priscilla Maratita Iakopo. "Many of us have enjoyed these dishes in our homes since we were children, so the contestants will face quite a challenge to impress our judges. We're anticipating tasty en-

tries and encourage cooks and chefs of all levels to join."

Registration forms are available on the Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. The cooking contests are open to participants ages 18 and older with cash prizes for the winners: \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place, \$150 for third place, and \$100 for fourth place. Up to two members are allowed per team. The MVA will provide a prep table, stewing chicken, and fish, while contestants must provide their own gas stove, pots, ingredients, presentation plating, and other equipment.

Twenty food and two beverage vendors are confirmed for the festival. COVID-19 protocols will be strictly followed at the event. There will be two points of entry at the north and south sides of Garapan Fishing Base, and all attendees must undergo a temperature check, and wear a wristband at the event. Vendors will accept both Taste of the Marianas tokens or cash; however, tokens will not be sold this year.

For more information, contact MVA community projects specialist Ray Villagomez at rvillagomez@mymarians.com or 664-3200. **(MVA)**





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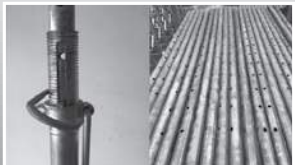
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Pacific Rim's Stewart eyes CNMI-based airline

Pacific Rim, a family-owned full service construction and development company, is working on setting up a CNMI-based airline that would target not just travelers from Japan and Korea but also Australia and the Philippines.

According to Pacific Rim president Keith J. Stewart, he sees great potential for the CNMI to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic a stronger and more diversified community and that includes setting up an airline, to be called Marianas Pacific Airline.

Following this mission,

Stewart has brought on board a team of from Australia with more than 240 years of combined airline experience to run through the numbers and create a plan for an airline that would be based and serve the CNMI.

"Initially, the plan was for a freight aircraft," Stewart said. "However, when we and the aviation experts on our team looked at the numbers and the global environment, it became clear that there was a market to expand service to build out full passenger and freight service for the CNMI."

"So we spent close to a



This artist sketch shows the proposed CNMI-based airline that Pacific Rim is planning to establish.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

year doing the research and putting together the plans for Marianas Pacific Airlines to provide stability, and affordability on air service to the Commonwealth that would be operated by seasoned airline professions with a specific interest in supporting the needs of the CNMI."

One of the key factors that makes this possible, according to Stewart, is the disruptions to the international travel market caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. "We see a great deal of opportunity here and Neil Hansford, chief executive officer for Marianas Pacific Airlines and a premier airline expert, has been working hard to establish the Australian market for the CNMI's tourism makeup," said Stewart. "Australia has an incredible demand for destinations like the CNMI and represents a real opportunity to build a new market for the Commonwealth."

"The figures work," said Stewart. "We have the right team, a steadfast commitment to the Commonwealth, and a real interest in making this a reality, not just for the Australian route."

According to Stewart, the plan is to provide air service between Japan, South Korea, Philippines, and Australia, with expansion opportunities that would support additional routes in the future to include direct service to Hawaii.

Alternative industries

He said this effort to explore the development potential of the CNMI came during the onset of the global pandemic. "As soon as the international flights ceased, it was not hard to predict the wider impacts the loss of tourism would have on this community," said Stewart. "Thankfully, the CNMI government took all the right steps to keep these islands safe through it all, but it certainly highlighted the need for greater resiliency in the economy."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The FDA needs to clear the air on vaccine approval

As calls for the Food and Drug Administration to fully approve COVID-19 vaccines grow louder, the agency itself has little to say. This is a mistake. The agency insists it is “working as quickly as possible” and has suggested that full approval may come for at least one vaccine by the end of summer. The public is left wondering: What’s taking so long?

This isn’t just a minor nuisance. It undermines trust in the vaccines and damages the FDA’s most valuable asset—its credibility.

The drug regulators have good reason to insist on thoroughly reviewing many months of clinical trial data before fully licensing any medicine. The emergency use authorizations for the vaccines now administered in the U.S. were based on just two months of follow-up data—enough to be confident that the vaccines are safe, effective, and fit for use in response to a pressing need, but relying on a faster analysis than the FDA requires for its full approval process. To fully approve the vaccines, the FDA looks at more data and satisfies itself on a range of other issues, including developing detailed guidance on use.

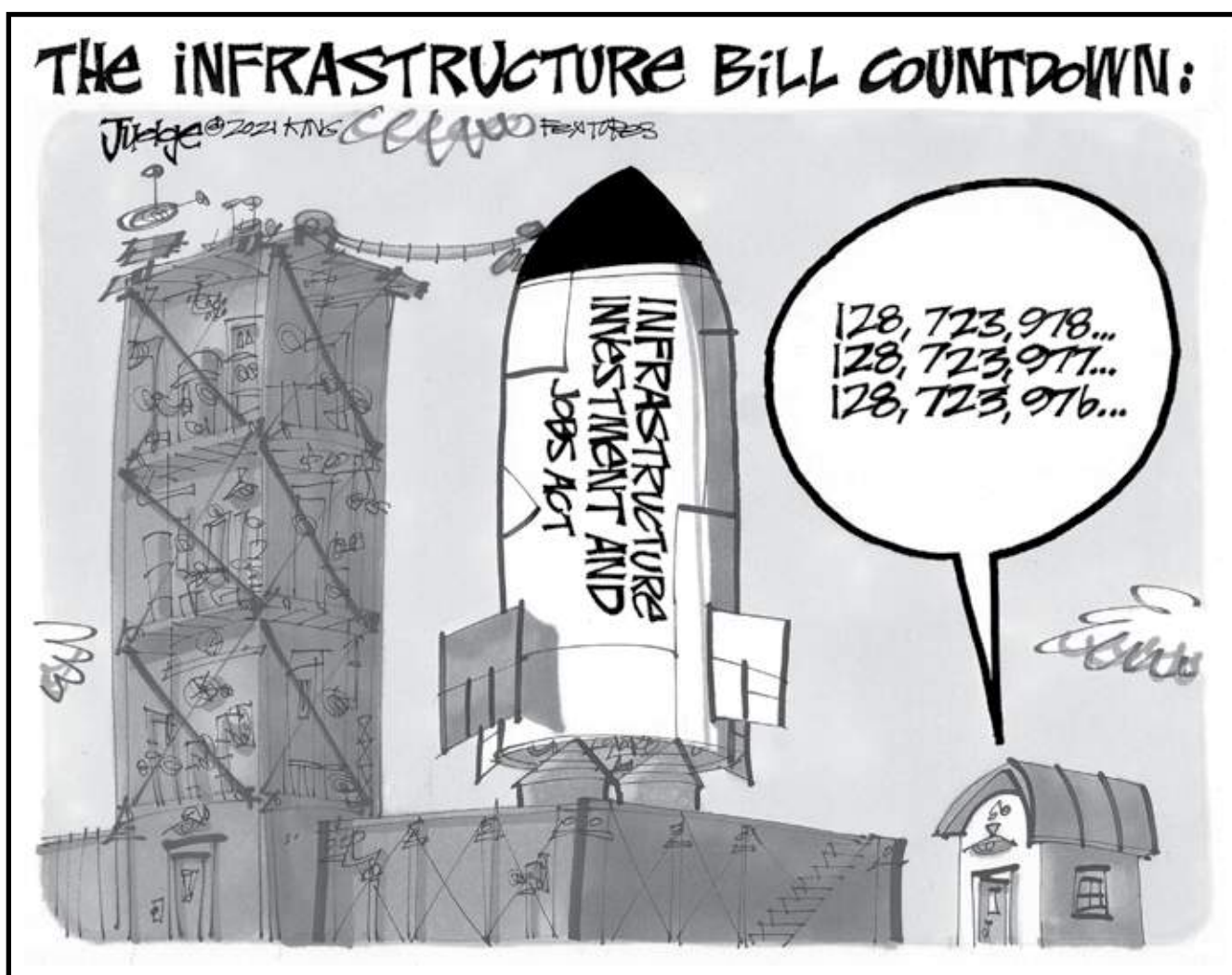
This two-track system, allowing flexibility when circumstances demand it, makes sense. To many outside the agency, however, it seems contradictory. Late last year, the FDA pronounced the mRNA vaccines safe and effective enough for emergency use; many months later, it hasn’t fully licensed them. So are the vaccines safe and effective or not? That’s a reasonable question—and the agency has failed to answer it clearly.

With the delta variant racing through the population and the pace of vaccination in the U.S. still too slow, many observers, including some infectious disease professionals, have accused the FDA of dragging its feet. Without transparent communication from the agency itself, it’s impossible to know whether that charge is correct. On Friday, an agency official said it was making further efforts to speed its review, making one wonder why every effort hadn’t already been made. The FDA traditionally hasn’t explained its ongoing work in detail, but hesitancy over the COVID-19 vaccines makes that reticence unacceptable.

If it’s now in a position to affirm that six months’ worth of clinical trial data provides stronger confirmation that the shots work safely, it should do so, and announce that the licenses will soon be forthcoming. It should also explain what further steps are involved, and how long they’ll take. This would reassure Americans that the shots are indeed safe and that anyone who hasn’t yet gotten them should go ahead without delay. It would assure businesses that requiring vaccinations for their employees right away is wise. And it would discourage states from forbidding vaccine mandates until the shots are fully approved.

One more thing. Right now, at a moment of exceptional stress, the FDA is hobbled by its lack of a permanent leader. After more than six months in office, President Joe Biden has

See FDA on Next Page



No accountability one year after Beirut blast

It’s been one year since the devastating Beirut port explosion, perhaps the worst non-nuclear blast in a heavily populated area in human history. A large stockpile of ammonium nitrate stored at the port ignited in a devastating eruption that left much of the city shattered.

The anatomy of the disaster, one of numerous calamities that have befallen Lebanon over the past two years, sums up all the essential dysfunctions destroying the country: corrupt and incompetent administration; a complete absence of transparency, accountability and justice; and the willingness of powerful forces to place the entire society in extreme jeopardy for their own narrow, selfish purposes.

The official explanation of how the chemicals, which can be used as either fertilizer or explosive material, arrived in Lebanon was always implausible and now appears beyond ridiculous. In 2013, a Moldovan-flagged vessel arrived at the port, supposedly en route to Mozambique. Eleven months later, the dangerous cargo was offloaded to hangar 12, where it remained until the explosion that killed at least 218 people and injured thousands.

But according to a 2020 FBI report completed shortly after the catastrophe, of the original shipment of 2,754 tons of ammonium nitrate, only 552 exploded. Lebanese authorities quietly agree with that assessment, according to Reuters.

There are two obvious conclusions. If the full amount had still been in hangar 12 and exploded, most of the city would have been wiped out and the death toll unimaginable. Second, while the ammonium nitrate was supposedly being stored at the port, in fact most of it was being used, and almost certainly not for agriculture.

It’s not absolutely impossible that most of the ammonium nitrate didn’t explode but was instead blown into the sea. But in the broader context that strains credulity.

It is likely that these dangerous chemicals were brought to Beirut to be used in explosives. Ever since the blast, many Lebanese have cast suspicion and blame on the pro-Iranian Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah and its close ally, the Syrian dictatorship of Bashar Assad. It would not have been the first time these forces have used the Lebanese state and society as a cover and vehicle for their nefarious activities, for which the Lebanese people have again paid an exorbitant cost. (Hezbollah has denounced allegations it was to blame.)

But there will be no accountability. In the immediate aftermath of the explosion, authorities promised a quick and thorough probe. That was never going to happen. The first investigative judge was summarily fired after he sought to question key officials. His replacement has been completely unable to secure

By **HUSSEIN IBISH**
Bloomberg Opinion

Hussein Ibish is a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington.



testimony from security officials and members of Parliament, or to lift the lawmakers’ legal immunity to get at the facts.

If it were merely a question of protecting incompetence, or even corruption, some semblance of an investigation could be possible, even in Lebanon. But a real inquiry can’t be allowed because it would more than likely reveal that the Mozambique cover story is fiction and that the chemicals were, in fact, destined for Beirut from the beginning. Eventually, it would uncover what really happened to the missing 2,200 tons and, most importantly, who is really responsible.

But the Lebanese state is in no position to hold Hezbollah and the agents of the Syrian regime accountable, or even admit to much of their activities. The irony is that the Lebanese government institutions that seem so helpless, and even hostages, to these forces are the only real alternative to the domination of Hezbollah and its allies. Calls in the U.S. to stigmatize the Lebanese government and deny it badly-needed aid will only strengthen their grip on the country.

Even targeted sanctions can backfire. U.S. Treasury Department sanctions, richly deserved on the merits and imposed in 2020, against Gibran Bassil, the son-in-law and would-be heir to Lebanese President Michel Aoun, mainly had the effect of hardening the Lebanese political gridlock that has prevented the country from reaching a desperately needed bailout agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

The port explosion and its wretched aftermath do indeed illustrate everything that is wrong with Lebanese realities, and institutions. But if the rest of the world is rightly disgusted with the corruption, unaccountability and hijacking by extremists of Lebanese institutions, the answer is to help strengthen—not to shun—them.

The sudden devastation at the port a year ago is mirrored by a more slowly unfolding, and far worse, social and economic calamity. In both cases, the only reasonable answer is to help the Lebanese rebuild and restructure. Turning away or penalizing Lebanon will only make the tragedy, and the problem, worse.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

I went to a party with 14 other vaccinated people; 11 of us got COVID

I was sitting on an examination table at an urgent care clinic in Timonium, giving my history to a physician's assistant. An hour later, she would call me to confirm that I was positive for COVID-19.

Given the way that I felt, it was what I expected. But it wasn't supposed to happen: I've been fully vaccinated for months.

Five days earlier, I had gone to a house party in Montgomery County. There were 15 adults there, all of us fully vaccinated. The next day, our host started to feel sick. The day after that, she tested positive for COVID-19. She let all of us know right away. I wasn't too worried. It was bad luck for my friend, but surely she wasn't that contagious. Surely all of us were immune. I'd been sitting across the room from her. I figured I'd stay home and isolate from my family for a few days, and that would be that. And even that seemed like overkill.

The official Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guideline stated that, since I was fully vaccinated, I didn't need to do anything different unless I started developing symptoms. I'm an epidemiologist at a major medical research university, which has a dedicated COVID exposure hotline for staff. I called it, and workers said I didn't need to do anything.

Then, I started to hear that a few other people who had been at the party were getting sick. Then a few more. At this point, 11 of the 15 have tested positive for COVID.

Fortunately, none of us seems to be seriously ill. When fully vaccinated people experience so-called "breakthrough" infection, they tend not to progress to serious disease requiring hos-

pitalization, and I expect that will be the case for us. But I can tell you that even a "mild" case of COVID-19 is pretty miserable. I've had fever, chills and muscle aches, and I've been weak enough that I can barely get out of bed. I don't wish this on anybody.

Our research group at work has shown that the COVID vaccine isn't always fully effective in transplant recipients. I'm proud of the work we've done. But once I got the vaccine, I figured the COVID battle was over for me. Out of an abundance of caution I took an antibody test shortly after my second vaccine dose. It was off the charts.

As much as I hate me and my fully vaccinated friends being sick, I've been thinking about what our little outbreak among means for the rest of us. Here's what I've concluded:

State and local health departments, and the CDC, need to do a better job collecting and reporting data on breakthrough infections. The CDC announced in May that it was only going to collect data on breakthrough infections that led to hospitalization or death, which are fortunately rare. But that means that outbreaks like ours will fly under the radar. Any of us could infect others, apparently including other vaccinated people. It's not clear if our group got sick because of a particularly virulent variant, because the vaccine is wearing off or for some other reason. Without good data, we'll never know.

Fully vaccinated people exposed to COVID need to isolate at home and get tested. I thought I might be overreacting by leaving work in the middle of the day and immediately moving to our basement at home. Now I'm glad I did.

By **ALLAN MASSIE**

The Baltimore Sun

Allan Massie (amassie1@jhmi.edu) is an epidemiologist and biomedical researcher at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. The views expressed here are his own.



Governments and businesses should consider bringing back masking requirements, even for vaccinated people. We're still at risk of getting sick, and we're still at risk of infecting others. The CDC recently recommended masks for vaccinated people in areas with over 50 new infections per 100,000 people per week. In the seven days before my exposure, Montgomery County had 19.4 new infections per 100,000 people.

Pharmaceutical companies, research institutions and governments should prioritize research into booster vaccines. At one point it seemed like two mRNA doses or a single Janssen dose might be the answer. But apparently, whether because of variants or fading immunity, being "fully vaccinated" doesn't necessarily mean you're immune.

COVID-19 vaccines do an enormous amount of good. I expect a milder course of disease since I'm vaccinated. But COVID-19 isn't over, even for the vaccinated. As the pandemic continues to evolve, we need to evolve with it.

In defense of 'misinformation'

I'm no fan of the current war on "misinformation"—if anything, I'm a conscientious objector—and one of the reasons is the term's pedigree. Although the Grammar Curmudgeon in me freely admits that the word is a perfectly fine one, the effort by public and private sector alike to hunt down misinformers to keep them from misinforming the public represents a return to the bad old days that once upon a time liberalism sensibly opposed.

First, as to the word itself.

The Oxford English Dictionary traces "misinformation" in its current sense to the late 16th century. In 1786, while serving as ambassador to France, Thomas Jefferson used the word to deride the claim that the U.S. Congress had at one point sat in Hartford, Conn. In 1817, as every first-year law student knows, the U.S. Supreme Court used the word as part of a shaky effort to define fraud. In the run-up to the Civil War, supporters of the newly formed Republican Party denounced as misinformation the notion that they harbored "hostile aims against the South."

Depending on context, the word can even take on a haughty drawing-room quality. Sir Hugo Latymer, the protagonist of Noel Coward's tragic farce "A Song at Twilight," discovers that his ex-lover Carlotta believes that she has the legal right to publish his letters to Hugo's ex-lover Perry. Says the haughty Hugo: "I fear you have been misinformed." (Writers have been imitating the line ever since.)

True, according to the always excellent Quote Investigator, a popular Mark Twainism about how reading the news makes you misinformed is apocryphal. QI does remind us, however, that there's a long history of writers and politicians using the term as one of denunciation.

Which leads us to the pedigree problem.

Chances are you've never heard of the old Federated Press. (The old Federated Press has no relation to the current organization using the same name.) It was founded in the 1918 as a left-leaning competitor to The Associated Press, and died 30 years later, deserted by hundreds of clients after being declared by the U.S. Congress a source of "misinformation."

Translation: The Congress didn't like its point of view.

But the Federated Press was hardly alone. For the Red-hunters of the McCarthy Era, "misinformation" became a common term of derision. As early as 1945, the right-leaning syndicated columnist Paul Mallon complained that "the left wing" was "glibly" spreading "misinformation about American foreign policy"—and, worse, that others "were being gradually influenced by their thinking."

In a 1953 U.S. Senate hearing on "Communist Infiltration of the Army"—yes, that's what the hearing was called—Soviet defector Igor Bogolepov (popular among the McCarthyites) assured the eager committee members that a pamphlet about Siberia distributed by the Army contained "a lot of deliberate misinformation which serves the interest of the Communist cause."

A report issued by the Senate Judiciary Committee three years later begins: "The average American is unaware of the amount of misinformation about the Communist Party, USA, which appears in the public press, in books and in the utterances of public speakers." Later on, the report provides a list of groups that exist "for the purpose of promulgating Communist ideas and misinformation into the bloodstream of public opinion." Second on the list is the (by then dying) Federated Press.

In 1957, the chief counsel of a Senate subcommittee assured the members that "misinformation" distributed by "some of our State Department officials" had "proved to be helpful to the Communist cause and detrimental to the cause of the United States."

The habit lingered into the 1960s, when—lest we forget—President John F. Kennedy and his New Frontiersman were adamant about the need to combat the Communist threat. "International communism is expending great efforts to spread misinformation about the United States among ill-informed peoples around the world," warned the Los Angeles Times in a 1961 editorial. The following year, Attorney General Robert Kennedy gave a major address in which he argued that America's ideolog-

By **STEPHEN L. CARTER**

Bloomberg Opinion

Stephen L. Carter is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of law at Yale University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. His novels include *The Emperor of Ocean Park*, and his latest nonfiction book is *Invisible: The Forgotten Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster*.



ical setbacks abroad were the result of—you guessed it—Communist "misinformation."

I'm not suggesting that "misinformation" is always an unhelpful word. My point is that for anyone who takes history seriously, the sight of powerful politicians and business leaders joining in a campaign to chase misinformation from public debate conjures vicious images of ideological overreaching that devastated lives and livelihoods.

I've written in this space before about the federal government's deliberate destruction of the career of my great-uncle Alphaeus Hunton, based largely on his role as a trustee for the Civil Rights Congress, a group labeled by the Senate as—you guessed it—a purveyor of "misinformation."

So forgive me if, in this burgeoning war on misinformation, I remain a resister. America has been down this road before, and the results were ugly. I'm old-fashioned enough to believe that your freedom to shout what I consider false is the best protection for my freedom to shout what I consider true. I won't deny a certain pleasurable frisson as the right cowers before what was once its own weapon of choice. And I quite recognize that falsehoods, if widely believed, can lead to bad outcomes. Nevertheless, I'm terrified at the notion that the left would want to return to an era when those in power are applauded for deciding which views constitute misinformation.

So if the alternatives are a boisterous, unruly public debate, where people sometimes believe falsehoods, and a well-ordered public debate where the ability to make one's point is effectively subject to the whims of officially assigned truth-sayers, the choice is easy: I'll take the unruly boister every time.

FDA

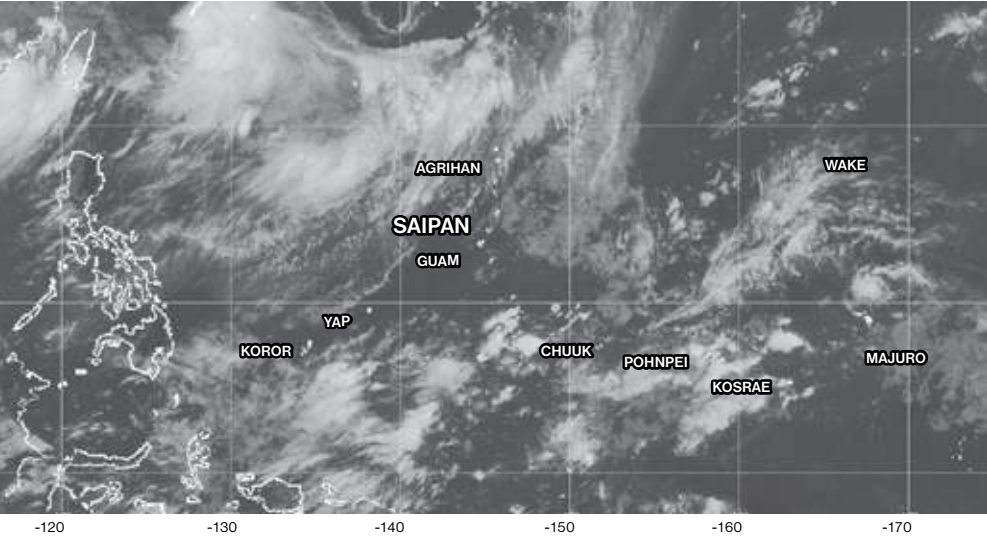
From Page 10

yet to make the appointment. The agency's professionals are surely aware of the urgency on vaccines. They know it would be a mistake to bow to pressure by cutting corners. Competently led, they can be more effective—and help restore public trust—simply by explaining what they're doing.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly sunny. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:46 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Fair weather is seen over the region as a surface ridge sits overhead, stretching from southwest to northeast. To the east of the Marianas, northeast trades precede an advancing surface trough packing increased moisture, as seen in overnight MIMIC TPW imagery and gridded NUCAPS. A westward-moving upper-level low is also seen well to the WNW near 18N160E. Recent altimetry passes show seas around 5 feet across the area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 82°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:35 AM	5:02 PM	-
Saturday	4:28 AM	5:53 PM	-
Sunday	5:24 AM	6:41 PM	-
Monday	6:20 AM	7:27 PM	-
Tuesday	7:15 AM	8:10 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	59° / 46°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	91° / 72°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	91° / 84°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 59°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 67°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Rain	61° / 48°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
New York	Showers	81° / 68°	
Osaka	Showers	88° / 79°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	81° / 63°	
Busan	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°	
Rome	Sunny	90° / 68°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	63° / 56°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°	
Tokyo	Rain	79° / 72°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	83° / 70°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:15 AM	Low Tide	1.39	
4:58 AM	High Tide	1.82	
12:30 PM	Low Tide	0.02	
7:50 PM	High Tide	1.88	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:50am	1, 3, 6
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	2, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:50am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	2, 5	UA184	9:50pm	4:00am+1	2, 5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	3, 6, 7	UA184	10:25pm	4:40am+1	3, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.				
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021				
SAIPAN TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1202 8:00 8:15 Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1203 9:00 9:15 Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1204 10:00 10:15 Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1205 11:00 11:15 Daily
				1206 12:00 12:15 Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1207 13:00 13:15 Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1208 14:00 14:15 Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1209 15:00 15:15 Daily
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	1210 16:00 16:15 Daily
				1211 17:00 17:15 Daily
				1212 17:00 17:15 Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO GUAM				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	
GUAM TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	

MCS faculty participate in professional development training

As Mount Carmel School prepares for the start of the 2021-2022 school year, faculty and staff participated in orientation and professional development at Kensington Hotel Saipan on Aug. 2 and 3, 2021.

The purpose of the events was to welcome the school's faculty and introduce key topics that will aid teachers in their duties and responsibilities throughout the academic year. Important topics during the professional development included school policies and procedures, Covid-19 mitigation guidelines, student affairs, how to effectively communicate with parents, child protection seminars, and the Student Council Officer's presentation on promoting mental wellness in the classroom.

Acting MCS president Frances Taimanao shared the importance of the event stating, "It is crucial that before the start of the school year, we promote a unified understanding of the school's policies, procedures, and protocols. These last two days are meant to engage and support teachers as they prepare to welcome their students and families."

Ninth-grade homeroom teacher Jonathan Sanchez said, "The professional development events were very helpful. While this isn't my first year as a teacher at MCS, the presentations were a helpful refresher and I was happy we got a chance to engage with student leaders prior to the start of the new school year."

Second grade homeroom

Water outage in As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao, Tanapag

There will be an emergency water service interruption for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag, which started last night at 8:30pm, continuing to 6am today.

This is due to the low tank level at the As Matuis water tank caused by a failed pump and motor at one of the major producing water wells. CUC personnel are working on replacing the failed pump and motor and expected to complete the work last night.

CUC is reminding its customers that the following scheduled water hours are in effect for the As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag areas:

■ Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 6am to 6pm

■ Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday: 24-hours

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline at 236-4333. (PR)



Mount Carmel School's faculty and staff collaborate during the MCS faculty and staff orientation and professional development on August 3 and 4, 2021, at Kensington Hotel Saipan. MCS

teacher Felisa Mendiola shared the impact Mount Carmel School's student council officers made with their topic focused on mental health. "My greatest take away from our professional development was when [the Student Council] actually came to talk to us about

mental health awareness and how they would like to focus on its importance among our students and each other. I plan to utilize some of the methods and activities STUCO provided us with to foster social and emotional learning and improve and promote proper men-

tal health in the classroom."

The first day of classes for Mount Carmel School is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021. Registration is ongoing for certain grade-levels.

For more information, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. (MCS)

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-MOT/TDLNR-138
 SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 23, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) BOAT ENGINE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN, DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES TINIAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY.**

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EDWIN P. ALDAN
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

/S/ GUILLERMO C. BORJA
RESIDENT DEPT. HEAD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
 COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP21-CHCC/HIT-002
 SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 7th, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF CHCC INTER-FACILITY FIBER OPTICS"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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Legislature adopts joint resolution to honor Blanco

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate and the House of Representatives adopted Wednesday during a joint session Joint Resolution 22-02 that commends the life and legacy of service of late representative Ivan James Alafonso Blanco.

At the joint session held in the House chamber, Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan) and Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan) formally introduced Joint Resolution 22-02, which also expresses the Legislature's sympathies to Blanco's bereaved family.

Present at the session was Lilli, one of Blanco's children, and some of Blanco's relatives.

Blanco, 45, passed away due to massive pulmonary embolism last July 23.

Blanco was a member of the 20th, 21st, and 22nd CNMI legislatures.

The resolution states that Blanco began his professional career in 2006 in the Federated States of Micronesia national government as a federal grants manager for the FSM Department of Finance and Administration. In 2007, Blanco served as auditor for the FSM Office of National Public Auditor in Palikir, Pohnpei.

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) described Blanco as a very humble man who was direct and concise about what he intended to convey or discuss. "And that resonates to the admiration by a lot of us, especially here in the Senate and the House," Hofschneider said.

He said not many law-

makers possess Blanco's demeanor, especially in their line of work.

Hofschneider said that through the years that they worked together in the Legislature and, most recently, during the impasse of the budget last fiscal year, "he never changed his tone. He [was] always very assertive in terms of what he want[ed]. And that's gained more admiration to his character," Hofschneider said.

Blanco used to be chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee when Hofschneider was chairing the Senate Fiscal Committee.

After Senate and the House adopted the resolution, House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) said the resolution was to be presented to Blanco's family at the state funeral yesterday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

In an interview later, Blanco's office manager/secretary, Mercedes T. Usenuku, said there's so many good things that Blanco did to her personally and professionally. "I'm forever grateful. So grateful to him. He's such an honorable, humble boss," Usenuku said.

She started working with Blanco as his secretary in February 2017. Of 14 applicants, Blanco hired her, Usenuku said, and that "blew me away," considering that she had little knowledge and experience.

She said Blanco encouraged her to attend trainings and study to become a court-certified interpreter/translator for the Chuukese language.

"That I will continue," Usenuku said.



Lilli Blanco, daughter of late representative Ivan James Alafonso Blanco, along with some relatives, joins senators and representatives in a group photo at the House chamber Wednesday morning. The Senate and the House adopted during a joint session Joint Resolution 22-02 that commends Blanco's life and legacy of service.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Municipal council mourns Blanco's passing

The 16th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council has acknowledged the immense loss of late representative Ivan Blanco and the enormous void he leaves behind, describing him as a well-respected, humble, affable, and gracious public servant.

"We are shocked with disbelief," said Ana Demapan-Castro, municipal council chairperson, on behalf of her

and her colleagues, vice chair Antonia M. Tudela, and member Danny Aquino.


Blanco suddenly passed away on Friday, July 23, 2021.

"Congressman Blanco personified a true statesman worthy of the admiration and respect of all of us—his elected colleagues—devoid of any party lines. His softspoken, enviable people-relations mannerism, no matter where he is at and which

audience he is with, makes him an exceptional diplomat who brought leaders and people together not just here in the Marianas, but our broader Micronesia," said Demapan-Castro. "Indeed, Rep. Blanco taught us all what a true, authentic leader is and shall be: servant-leader, acute listener, congenial and friendly, communicative, and hands-down humble and pleasant across and all around. He

will be sorely missed now and for years to come."

She said the council joins the entire leadership of the Commonwealth and its people in mourning the sudden, untimely passing of a great leader. "We lift our prayers of healing and utmost condolences to his lovely wife, Carmen, their children, their parents, family, and close loved ones during their time of grief and loss." (PR)



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-COTA/FTA-144

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 16, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF TEN (10) 20-PASSENGER MEDIUM-DUTY LOW FLOOR ADA ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT BUSES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL TO THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, MRS. ALFREDA CAMACHO MARATITA AT alfredac.maratita@gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, 04:30 P.M. CHST, AUGUST 09, 2021. ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.


THIS PROJECT IS FEDERALLY FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA CAMACHO MARATITA
SA FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ MARGARET C. TORRES
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-031

SUBMISSION DATE: August 23, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Rehabilitation of Existing Airfield Runway Phase 1, Shomushon, Pagan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **July 23, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **August 10, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **DPW Conference Room, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 17, 2021** to **Ms. Lorraine S. Villagomez, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Request for Proposals
RFP NO.: RFP21-GOV-150

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 18, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"LEASE OF WAREHOUSE SPACE FOR THE CNMI HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A-D).

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ GERALD J. DELEON GUERRERO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT, HSEM

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

CGC certifies GCA staff in suicide intervention training

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center certified last July 31, 2021, 28 employees of Grace Christian Academy in suicide intervention training called "Question, Persuade, and Refer," or QPR.

QPR is an evidence-based suicide intervention training program that teaches participants how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help.

Since 2018, the CGC QPR trainers have certified 1,088 individuals in the CNMI (864 from Saipan, 97 from Tinian, and 127 from Rota).

The training session was facilitated by Mia Jones and was made possible with support from the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program grant administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

For more information on

Employees of Grace Christian Academy participate in a suicide intervention training called "Question, Persuade, and Refer" last July 31, 2021.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

QPR, visit <https://qprinstitute.com/>. For more information and to request for the CGC's QPR training, visit <https://chcc.gov.mp/communitysupporttraining.php>, or contact the CGC Suicide Prevention Program at (670) 323-6560. **(PR)**



CGC certifies 12 in Adult Mental Health First Aid



A total of 12 individuals from various agencies on Tinian are certified in Adult Mental Health First Aid.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center certified last July 29 a total of 12 individuals from various agencies on Tinian in Adult Mental Health First Aid.

The Adult MHFA is an evidence-based public education program that focuses on recognizing the patterns of thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and appearance that show there might be a mental health or substance abuse challenge. Individuals are taught to safely and responsibly identify and

address warning signs and symptoms through the use of an action plan.

Part of the training also included topics on suicide, non-suicidal self-injury, and psychosis. The five-step, nonlinear, action plan for non-crisis and mental health crisis is as follows: 1. Assess for risk of suicide or harm; 2. Listen nonjudgmentally; 3. Give reassurance and information; 4. Encourage appropriate professional help; and 5. Encourage self-help and other support strategies.

To date, the CGC has certified 1,106 individuals within the CNMI, Palau, and Guam in either the MHFA youth curriculum, adult curriculum, or both.

The agencies represented at the training included the Tinian Health Center, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Public School System Office of Student and Support Services, Tinian Junior Senior High School, Division of Youth Services, Pacific Island Health Officers' Association, and Tinian CGC. **(PR)**

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Attorney for Administratrix
Maria Carmen C. Maratita

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF:
**LUIS SABLAN
CAMACHO,**
Decedent. } Civil Action
No.: 20-0011
**NOTICE OF
HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition by Administratrix Maria Carmen Camacho Maratita for the partial distribution in this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 12th day of August, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., at the NMI Superior Court Room 220, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 28th day of July, 2021.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge



Position Vacancy Accountant

The Bank of Saipan is seeking qualified individuals to fill a vacant Accountant position. The minimum job requirements are:

- A bachelor's degree in accounting or related field from an accredited US college or university or foreign institution of higher learning of comparable educational standards; or
- A minimum of two years as an Accounting Manager or Supervisor.
- Banking experience is a plus.

Position Vacancy Bookkeeper

The Bank of Saipan is seeking qualified individuals to fill a vacant Bookkeeper position. The minimum job requirements are:

- An associates' degree in accounting or related field from an accredited US college or university or foreign institution of higher learning of comparable educational standards; or
- A minimum of two years of experience as a bookkeeper or account clerk.
- Banking experience is a plus.

Unqualified individuals need not apply.

Please submit your resume to:
HR@bankofsaipan.com on or before August 9, 2021.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-21-030

A&E DESIGN SERVICES FOR AGINGAN WWTP IMPROVEMENTS (S20-080)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements in Agingan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

A Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference followed by site visits will be held on **July 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-21-030, A&E Design Services for Agingan WWTP Improvements", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 16, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 2, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Name: Peter Mario L. Cruz
Address: P.O. Box 520257,
Tinian MP 96952

Phone: 670-287-8450

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the)
Petition for the)
Adoption of:) FCD-AD
Q.A.U.S. –) CIVIL ACTION
INITIALS ONLY) NO. 21-0230
Minor Child)
By:) **NOTICE OF**
Peter Mario L. Cruz) **HEARING**
Petitioner)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom Tinian Courthouse, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2021.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ _____
By: Deputy Clerk of Court





Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- Meeting Call to Order
- Determination of Quorum
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of Minutes (07/07/2021)
- Public Comments
- Chairperson's Report
- Director's Report
 - Certification of Adoption on the Amendment to the Pharmacist, Pharmacy Intern, certified Pharmacy Technician, and Pharmacy Technician Regulations – Ends August 14, 2021
 - Ad Hoc Committee report on the three proposed regulations – Up for Adoption
 - Psychology
 - Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
 - Addiction Professional
 - Update on the amendment to P.L. 15-105 – Removal of Limited Terms for HCPLB
 - Letter from Peter Brett, MD (Lic. #0694)
- Investigator's Report
- Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - Governor's Office
 - Legislature
- Old Business
- New Business
 - Executive Director's Contract
- Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - New Application
 - Renewal Applications
- Miscellaneous Business
- Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
 - Dr. E. Chang – Physician
 - Dr. S. Shushunov – Physician
 - Dr. L. Rogatnick – Physician
- Announcements
 - Next Meeting Date
 - Adjournment of Meeting



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 050

Opening Date: July 29, 2021 Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	Safety Technician
DEPARTMENT:	COA/Safety Office Division
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$20,826.00 - \$28,115.00 per annum, Non - Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assists with facility and site inspections to review and monitor compliance with safety and environmental regulations and standards; prepares and issues citations for corrective actions to address compliance violations.
- Responds to incidents and emergencies and assists with ensuring compliance with laws, rules and regulations; follows up to ensure issues are resolved and procedures are followed.
- Prepares incident and accident reports to document issues and corrective actions.
- Monitors equipment and supplies inventory; requests replacement stock to replenish inventory levels; ensures stock supply and preparedness for responding to oil spills or related incidents.
- Conducts or assists with a variety of informational workshops and/or orientations.
- Reviews project specifications and monitors field project work as needed.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and based on assignment, up to 2 years of related work experience.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Investigative techniques; Mitigation procedures; Safe work practices and procedures; Customer service principles; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing inspections to monitor safety and environmental compliance; Responding to emergency incidents to ensure corrective actions and proper procedures are followed; Monitoring equipment and supply inventory; Conducting and assisting with informational workshops and orientations; Reviewing project specifications and monitoring project work; Providing customer service; Preparing reports and related activity documentation; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- Hazmat and OSHA Certifications (Position may require)



All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday (Except Legal Holidays), 7:30 am – 4:30 pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 052

Revised

Opening Date: July 20, 2021 Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	Trades Assistant
DEPARTMENT:	Tinian Water Division
LOCATION:	Tinian, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$16,742.00 - \$22,602.00 per annum, Non -Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	Two (2)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Tinian Resident Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performs daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assists plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main vales, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples.
- Must be able to lift objects weighing at 40 lbs. or more.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.



Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 059

Opening Date: July 27, 2021
Closing Date: August 9, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	IT Technician
DEPARTMENT:	COA/Information Technology
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$22,865.00 - \$30,867.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of COA/IT Division.

Duties:

- Provides end user support for technology hardware, software, telecommunications, AV and/or peripheral systems; sets up equipment ensuring proper cabling; performs installation, testing, patches/upgrades, and maintenance activities in support of technology operations.
- Performs call and in-person Tier I and Tier II technical support to end users; prioritizes requests; responds to queries; researches system documentation as required; provides instruction to users; implements solutions to computer and network issues.
- Monitors and maintains user accounts for various systems; creates and initiates user accounts on network server and other systems; troubleshoots connectivity issues and resolves communication problems or refers complex issues to appropriate resource.
- Assists in evaluating and testing new software and equipment; documents and provides feedback of testing results.
- Sets up and installs systems and AV equipment for training purposes.
- Perform other duties of similar nature and level as assigned by management.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Associates Degree in Information Technology or directly related field and 1 years of related professional information technology experience; or High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and 3 years of experience related to technology support.; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation.

Knowledge of: Applicable hardware, software, system and technology principles, methods and support techniques; Systems analysis and design methods, procedures and techniques; Business methods, principles and practices; Customer service principles; Database maintenance principles; Modern office technology; Budgeting Principles; and Basic mathematics.

Skills in: Providing analysis and design in support of information technology and business processes; Evaluating and maintaining existing systems and equipment; Developing and implementing technology solutions to meet business requirements; Analyzing system performance, troubleshooting issues and maintaining system functionality; Monitoring, configuring, installing, testing and maintaining assigned systems and equipment; Preparing and maintaining reports, system documentation, and procedures; Providing technical end-user support and training of software and systems; Prioritizing requests and managing time; Serving as technical liaison with internal staff and external service providers; Recommending the acquisition of software and equipment; Providing customer service; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.



All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

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Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 020

Re-Announcement

Opening Date: July 16, 2021 Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	Compliance Administrator
DEPARTMENT:	Administration Office
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$40,084.00 to \$54,113.00 per annum, Exempt
CONTRACT:	Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Performs and assists with facility and site inspections to review and monitor compliance with safety and environmental regulations and standards; investigates alleged violations such as illegal connections; prepares and issues citations for corrective actions to address compliance violations.
- Responds to incidents and emergencies and assists with ensuring compliance with laws, rules and regulations; follows up to ensure issues are resolved and procedures are followed.
- Conduct or direct the internal investigation of compliance issues.
- Identify compliance issues that require follow-up or investigation.
- Prepares incident and accident reports to document issues and corrective actions.
- Report violations of compliance or regulatory standards to duly authorized enforcement agencies as appropriate or required.
- Monitors equipment and supplies inventory; requests replacement stock to replenish inventory levels; ensures stock supply and preparedness for responding to oil spills or related incidents.
- Conducts or assists with a variety of informational workshops and/or orientations relating to compliance.
- Reviews project specifications and monitors field project work as needed.
- Performs safety and compliance related duties after hours, on weekends, and on holidays as needed. Stand-by oncall designation on alternating basis.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Business or directly related field and 2 years of directly related experience or High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and 6 years of directly related experience.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Investigative techniques; Mitigation procedures; Safe work practices and procedures; Customer service principles; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing inspections to monitor safety and environmental compliance; Responding to emergency incidents to ensure corrective actions and proper procedures are followed; Monitoring equipment and supply inventory; Conducting and assisting with informational workshops and orientations; Reviewing project specifications and monitoring project work; Providing customer service; Preparing reports and related activity documentation; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- Emergency Responder Certification (preferred)
- Hazmat (preferred)
- OSHA (preferred)

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Woman bought \$1M lottery ticket after flight was canceled

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—Having just had her flight canceled, a Missouri woman's luck quickly changed when she won \$1 million from a Florida Lottery scratch-off ticket. Angela Caravella, 51, of Kansas City, Missouri, claimed a \$1 million top prize last month from The Fastest Road to \$1,000,000 scratch-off game, according to a Florida Lottery news release. She chose to receive her winnings as a one-time, lump-sum payment of \$790,000. "I had a feeling something bizarre was going to happen after my flight was canceled unexpectedly," Caravella said. "I bought a few scratch-off tickets to pass the time and just like that — I won \$1 million!" Caravella purchased her winning ticket from a Publix supermarket in Brandon, just east of Tampa. The store will receive a \$2,000 bonus commission for selling the winning ticket. The \$30 game that Caravella won launched in February 2020 and features 155 top prizes of \$1 million and over \$948 million in cash prizes.

Florida zoo: Man injured by jaguar after crossing barrier

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—A man was injured by a jaguar at a Florida zoo after climbing over a barrier and moving too close to the animal's enclosure, officials said. The attack occurred Wednesday at the Range of the Jaguar display at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, the Florida Times-Union reported. The man was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries, zoo officials said. The man climbed over a waist-high safety barrier that puts about 4 feet (1.2 meters) of empty space between visitors and the jaguar exhibit's fence, zoo spokeswoman Kelly Rouillard said. The man began taunting the jaguar and reached his hand through the fence, she said. A 12-year-old big cat named Harry swiped at the man and injured him. Rouillard said the feline was acting as part of his normal behavior for a wild animal and didn't expect anything to happen to him. Officials confirmed that Harry was involved in a fight that left another jaguar dead earlier this year. Zoo officials said they don't plan to pursue criminal charges against the injured man, whose name

wasn't released.

Sumo scare? Riders say horses might be spooked by statue

KAMIYOGA, Japan (AP)—Equestrian jumpers aren't keen on surprises. Neither are the horses, and it takes years of training to keep them from getting spooked. Of course, no horse in Tuesday night's Olympic jumping qualifier had ever seen anything like obstacle No. 10. "As you come around, you see a big guy's (butt)," British rider Harry Charles said. "There's a lot to look at," Ireland's Cian O'Connor added. "It is very realistic," echoed Israel's Teddy Vlock. Riders say a life-size sumo wrestler positioned next to the 10th obstacle on the 14-jump Olympic course may have distracted several horses in qualifying for the individual jumping final Tuesday night. A few pairings pulled up short of the barrier, accumulating enough penalty points to prevent entry into Wednesday's finals. The statue is positioned to the left of a jump placed in the corner of the arena. Hunched over and seemingly ready to attack, the wrestler is facing away from approaching riders, meaning that when they complete a sharp turn to take on the jump, the first thing horse and human see is the wedgie created by the wrestler's mawashi. "I did notice four or five horses really taking a spook to that," Charles said.

Los Angeles air traffic control warns 'jetpack guy is back'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The FBI is investigating what one commercial airline pilot said might have been an airborne person with a jetpack, high in the busy skies near Los Angeles International Airport. The Los Angeles Times reported that the Boeing 747 pilot radioed to report "a possible jetpack man in sight" at around 6:12 p.m. Wednesday, according to a recording from the website LiveATC. The pilot spotted an object that might have resembled a jetpack 15 miles east of LAX at 5,000 feet altitude, a Federal Aviation Administration spokesperson told the newspaper. "Out of an abundance of caution, air traffic controllers alerted other pilots in the vicinity." "Use caution, the jetpack guy is back," said one air traffic alert. "Did you see a UFO?" one air traffic controller asked a pilot. "We

were looking but we did not see Iron Man," the pilot responded. The FBI is working with the FAA to investigate the report, FBI spokesperson Laura Eimiller told the Times in an email. The agency has already looked into three other possible jetpack in the skies above Los Angeles, and has "not been able to validate any of the reports," she said.

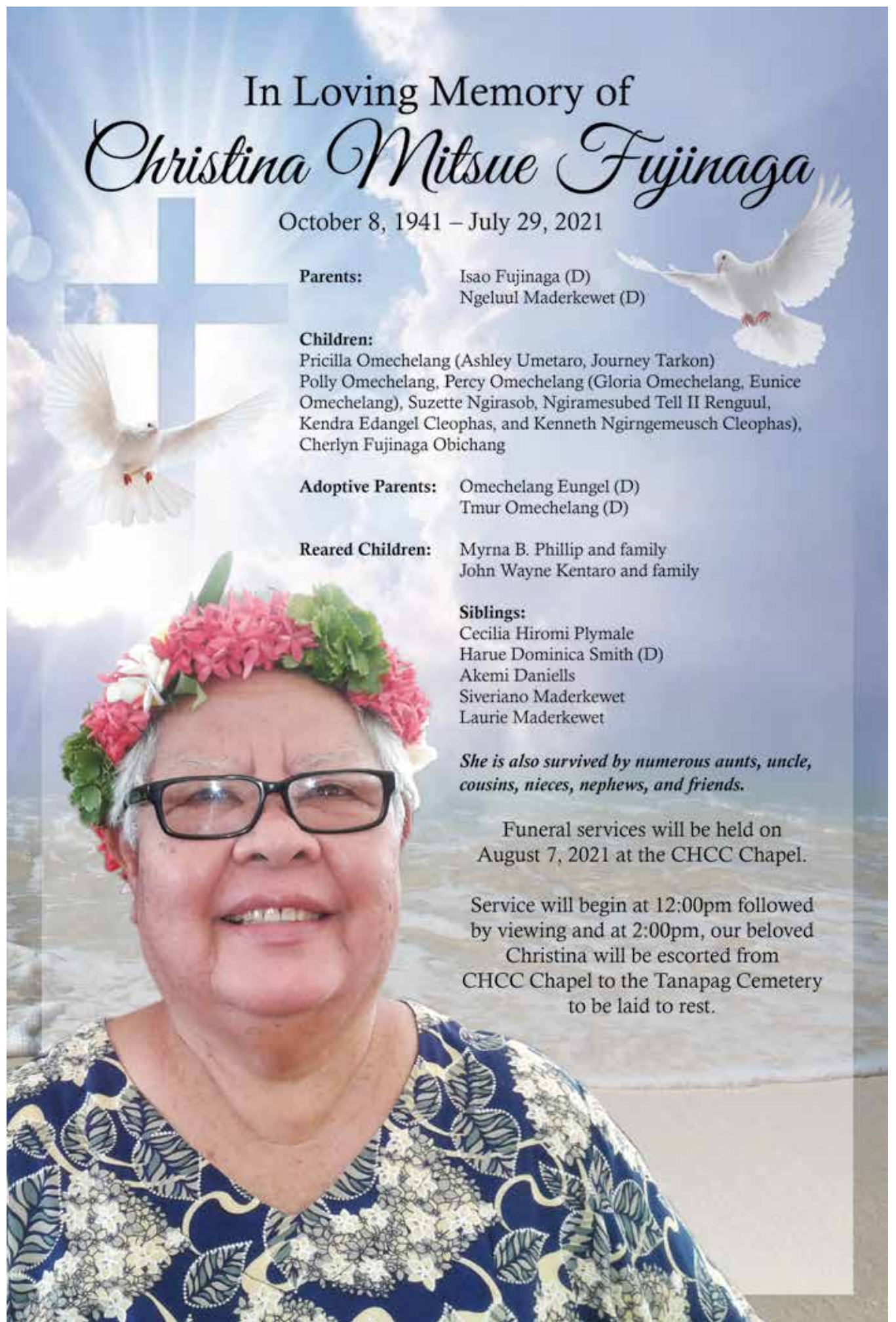
Tanks but no tanks!

German fined for WWII weapons arsenal

BERLIN (AP)—A German court on Tuesday convicted an 84-year-old man of illegal weapons possession for having a personal arsenal that included a tank, a flak cannon and multiple other items of World War II-era military equipment. The state district in the northern city of Kiel handed the man a suspended prison sentence of 14 months

and ordered him to pay a fine of 250,000 euros (\$300,000), the German news agency dpa reported. It also ordered the defendant, whose name was not given in line with German privacy laws, to sell or donate the 45-ton tank and the anti-aircraft cannon to a museum or a collector within the next two years. Authorities discovered the illegal military arsenal during a 2015 raid of the collector's

storage facility in northern Germany in an investigation into black market Nazi-era art that turned up two bronze horse statues which once stood in front of Adolf Hitler's chancellery. Those items were in another man's possession. During the raid of the defendant's property, authorities also seized machine guns, automatic pistols and more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition.



In Loving Memory of
Christina Mitsue Fujinaga
 October 8, 1941 – July 29, 2021

Parents: Isao Fujinaga (D)
 Ngeluul Maderkewet (D)

Children: Pricilla Omechelang (Ashley Umetaro, Journey Tarkon)
 Polly Omechelang, Percy Omechelang (Gloria Omechelang, Eunice Omechelang), Suzette Ngirasob, Ngiramesubed Tell II Renguul, Kendra Edangel Cleophas, and Kenneth Ngirngemeusch Cleophas), Cherlyn Fujinaga Obichang

Adoptive Parents: Omechelang Eungel (D)
 Tmur Omechelang (D)

Reared Children: Myrna B. Phillip and family
 John Wayne Kentaro and family

Siblings: Cecilia Hiromi Plymale
 Harue Dominica Smith (D)
 Akemi Daniells
 Siveriano Maderkewet
 Laurie Maderkewet

She is also survived by numerous aunts, uncle, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Funeral services will be held on August 7, 2021 at the CHCC Chapel.

Service will begin at 12:00pm followed by viewing and at 2:00pm, our beloved Christina will be escorted from CHCC Chapel to the Tanapag Cemetery to be laid to rest.

Science & Technology

Turn off, turn on: Simple step can thwart top phone hackers

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—As a member of the secretive Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. Angus King has reason to worry about hackers. At a briefing by security staff this year, he said he got some advice on how to help keep his cellphone secure.

Step One: Turn off phone.

Step Two: Turn it back on.

That's it. At a time of widespread digital insecurity it turns out that the oldest and simplest computer fix there is—turning a device off then back on again—can thwart hackers from stealing information from smartphones.

Regularly rebooting phones won't stop the army of cybercriminals or spy-for-hire firms that have sowed chaos and doubt about the ability to keep any information safe and private in our digital lives. But it can make even the most sophisticated hackers work harder to maintain access and steal data from a phone.

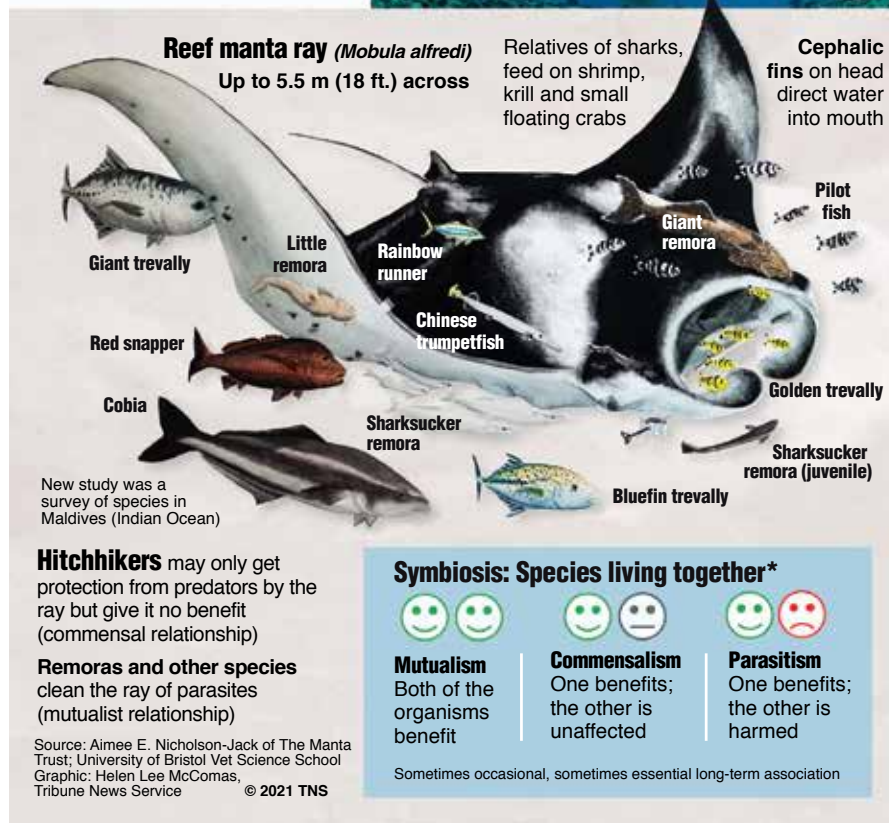
"This is all about imposing cost on these malicious actors," said Neal Ziring, technical director of the National Security Agency's cybersecurity directorate.

Science Matters

Hitchhikers' guide to the manta rays

Various "hitchhiker" fish have been found associating with manta rays, including species not previously known to accompany the mantas.

Remoras clinging to the under side of a manta ray



TECH Q&A

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; Email tech questions to Steve Alexander at steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Why a PC may slow down if a Windows 10 update is pending

Q: I schedule Windows 10 to install updates during my off-hours. But, prior to installing the update, my PC slows to a crawl. I can only speed it up again by allowing the update to install right away, which forces the PC to restart while I'm trying to work. Is there any way I can prevent this from happening?

A: I think your PC is being slowed by the download of a Windows 10 update, which may take awhile to complete. During that time, the download process will use some of your PC's processor time and computer chip memory, taking those resources away from other programs running on your PC and slowing them down.

That means your current strategy—delaying the installation of Windows 10 updates until after working hours—isn't enough. You need to delay both the download and the installation of those updates until after working hours. Windows 10 allows you to do something close to that. In Settings, you can pick one of two ways to defer downloads for multiple days: A preset seven-day deferral period, which starts when you click the command, or a customized deferral of up to 35 days, which starts when you select a future calendar date. In either case, you must accept downloads once the deferral period ends.

Here's the limitation. While you can set a specific time of day to install a Windows update (thus avoiding working hours), you can only specify a calendar date for deferring downloads. I suggest picking a download date that falls on a weekend, or some other day that you won't need the PC. To set this up, go to Start and click on Settings. In the resulting menu, click on "Update & Security." You'll be taken to the Windows Update menu, where you'll see the option to "pause updates for 7 days." Click on it.

Alternatively, scroll down on the same menu to "advanced options." Click on that, and in the next menu scroll down to "pause updates." Click the drop-down menu next to "select date" and specify a date that falls within the next 35 days. There are two things to remember: To make this work, you'll need to leave the PC running on the date the download is scheduled to occur. And, to make it work in the future, you'll need to repeat these steps after every download of a Windows update. That's because Windows won't "remember" how many days of delay you want before the next update is downloaded.

One more thing: To minimize the disruption to your work life, I recommend that you also use Settings to specify that updates should be installed soon after they are downloaded. That should cause both the download and the installation of the update to occur on the date you choose, freeing up your PC to run at normal speed the rest of the time. To do that, go to the top of the "advanced options" menu and go to the third item, "restart this device as soon as possible when a restart is required to install an update." Click the slider switch to turn this option on.

Note: There may be times when it's harmful to defer the download of a Windows 10 update. For example, if you read in the news about a hacker attack on Windows that exploits some previously undiscovered flaw, you should turn off any delay in getting updates. That's because Microsoft may try to quickly correct the vulnerability via a special Windows 10 download. To turn off either the seven-day or the up-to-35-day delay in downloads, go back to the Windows Update menu in Settings and click "resume updates."

Celebrating His New Life

†ALDEBERT CONCEPCION

OCTOBER 22, 1953 - AUGUST 3, 2021

Mass is being offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 am daily. Sunday mass will be offered at 9:00 am. Funeral service details will be announced at a later date.

Celina A. Concepcion, Children and Family

Life & Style

Iraq gets back looted ancient artifacts from US, others

BAGHDAD (AP)—Over 17,000 looted ancient artifacts recovered from the United States and other countries were handed over to Iraq's Culture Ministry on Tuesday, a restitution described by the government as the largest in the country's history.

The majority of the artifacts date back 4,000 years to ancient Mesopotamia and were recovered from the U.S. in a recent trip by Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi. Other pieces were also returned from Japan, Netherlands and Italy, Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein said in a joint press conference with Culture Minister Hasan Nadhim.

Nadhim said the recovery

was "the largest in the history of Iraq" and the product of months of effort between the government and Iraq's Embassy in Washington.

"There's still a lot of work ahead in this matter. There are still thousands of Iraqi artifacts smuggled outside the country," he said. "The United Nations resolutions are supporting us in the international community and the laws of other countries in which these artifacts are smuggled to are on our side."

"The smugglers are being trapped day after day by these laws and forced to hand over these artifacts," he added.

The artifacts were handed over to the Culture Ministry



Boxes containing recovered looted artifacts sit temporarily at the foreign ministry before being transferred to the Iraq Museum, in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021. AP

in large wooden crates. A few were displayed but the ministry said the most significant pieces will be examined and later displayed to the public in Iraq's National Museum.

Iraq's antiquities have been looted throughout decades of war and instability since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein. Iraq's government has been slowly recovering the plundered antiquities since. However, archaeological sites across the country continue to be neglected owing to lack of funds.

At least five shipments of antiquities and documents have been returned to Iraq's museum since 2016, according to the Foreign Ministry.

'Harry, Meghan mulled New Zealand'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The queen's representative in New Zealand said Prince Harry and Meghan discussed moving to the South Pacific country during their 2018 visit, more than a year before the couple stepped back from royal duties and moved to the United States.

Governor-General Patsy Reddy also told The Associated Press in an interview she believes the British monarch should remain New Zealand's head of state and described the hand-typed letters she sends to Queen Elizabeth II.

Reddy, 67, will leave her largely ceremonial role representing the queen in New Zealand in October after a 5-year term. A lawyer who was given the honorific Dame for her services to arts and business, Reddy officially signs bills into law, presides over many public cer-

emonies and tours the country, meeting with various groups including Indigenous Maori.

Harry and Meghan visited New Zealand at the end of a hectic 16-day royal tour of the South Pacific, and Reddy recalled the couple as being tired.

"I remember they'd just been down to the Abel Tasman National Park when we sat down and had a drink, and they said that they could imagine living in a place like this and wondered whether we thought it would be theoretically possible. Even possible for them to have a place in New Zealand."

"Of course, we said 'Sure. It would be fine. There are lots of opportunities to live in New Zealand, but that would be something that they'd have to explore,'" Reddy said. "They were looking at how they might raise their family. And, obviously, they've

made some decisions since."

Reddy said she didn't view it as a formal request for assistance but more of an informal discussion about the couple's hopes for the future. She said the pair seemed impressed with the access to the outdoors and their interactions with New Zealanders.

Still, the discussion shows the couple were considering options outside of Britain less than six months after they married and well before their eventual move to the U.S.

During a widely watched interview with Oprah Winfrey near the couple's California home earlier this year, Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, mentioned they'd offered to the royal family to take a step back from royal life in a Commonwealth country such as South Africa or New Zealand.

Italy wins US case as it seeks to reclaim marble statue

MILAN (AP)—Italy has won a legal victory in its bid to reclaim an ancient marble statue it asserted was stolen after it turned up in the possession of a New York antiquities dealer.

A U.S. district court in New York on Monday threw out a suit seeking to lift Italy's immunity brought by the Safani Gallery, which paid \$152,625 in 2017 for the sculpture depicting the head of Alexander the Great dating Augustan Age of 300 B.C.

The judge rebuffed several attempts by the gallery to argue that Italy's behavior had forfeited its protection under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

The case pits Italy's patrimony law, designed to protect its considerable cultural heritage, against Safani's claims of being a just and bona fide buyer of a statue that had long

been on the art market.

The statue remains in the possession of the Manhattan district attorney's office, which seized it in February 2018 after an Italian cultural official spotted the gallery's listing and Italy claimed it had been stolen.

Italy's art squad, a section of the paramilitary carabinieri dedicated to protecting Italy's cultural heritage, declined to comment on the case. The Culture Ministry also did not respond to requests for comment.

Leila Amineddoleh, who represented Italy, said the ruling sends a strong message to auction houses and dealers who want to weaken sovereign countries' attempts to reclaim cultural patrimony that finds its way onto the art market.

She said it was the third case in recent years that involved dealers attempting to sue for-

eign governments for communicating about suspicious items. "All three have been dismissed," she said.

In its suit, the Safani Gallery claimed to have investigated the head's provenance, "and came to believe that the head was neither stolen property nor otherwise subject to another's claim of rightful ownership."

David Schoen, who represents the Safani Gallery, said that his client is a "bona fide, good-faith purchaser" and that the gallery's "due diligence serves as a model." He said Italy previously had never made any claim that the piece had been stolen, noting that the statue "had been widely advertised and displayed for decades at fairs and auctions attended by Italian authorities."

The lawyer said he will submit an amended complaint, and if necessary appeal.

Man tells daughter to make him a grandfather ASAP

DEAR ABBY: I love both my parents so much, but I'm definitely closer to my dad. He has been there for me through it all, and now that I'm older, I want to be the best daughter possible to him.

Here's the issue: Dad was older when I came along, and he's impatient for grandkids. I'm 20 and on the pre-med track in college, and my career path will make me a very busy individual for years to come. Because of this, I planned to postpone having kids until later on. I want to be able to spend time with them and be an involved parent.

But doing the math, Dad would be in his 70s by the time I had a child, and I'm worried he won't be able to see them grow up. He says he deserves to have grandkids sooner rather than later and has assured me that he'll take care of them for me so I can work. I feel so torn. I want to make sure he gets to meet his grandkids, but I also feel it would be unfair to them if I can't spend time with them. What should I do?

ON THE FAST TRACK

DEAR O.T.F.T.: Do not knuckle under to the pressure! Your father "deserves" to become a grandparent when you are ready to have a child, not before. If his health is good, he could live well into his 80s and beyond. If it isn't, he should not be responsible for taking care of small children. For the

sake of any child you aspire to bring into this world, do not conceive one because you feel indebted to your father. You will be better able to provide for your family once you have completed your education, internship and residency—AND FOUND A PARTNER.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I bought a condo three months ago that I love. There are just a few things about it that bother me. When the couple who lives upstairs walks across the floor, it sounds like Bigfoot, and when they make love, I cannot escape the loud moaning and the noisy mattress. I have talked to them about it, but nothing has changed. I'm ready to put the place up for sale. Any suggestions?

MAD IN MICHIGAN

DEAR MAD: Before buying a home, the prospective buyer should ask whether there are any defects in the place—and a good home inspector is a must. The builder of your new condo failed to install sound-dampening insulation between the floors. Before offering the place for sale, consult a contractor and ask if something can be done to remedy your problem. However, if that would be too costly, you may have to find another place to live. You have my sympathy.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: How can I tactfully explain to a friend that no one wants to see cleavage on a 70-plus-year-old lady? I'm sure it looks OK when she leaves the house, but when she's sitting, her tops slide down and show more than they should. Or maybe she thinks she is being sexy?

MORTIFIED IN MINNESOTA

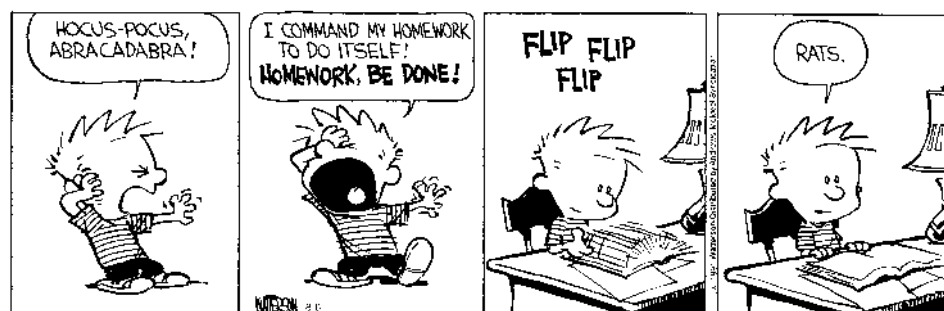
DEAR MORTIFIED: I don't know whether your friend is trying to be sexy, and neither do you. My heartfelt advice to you is to keep your nose out of her cleavage.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

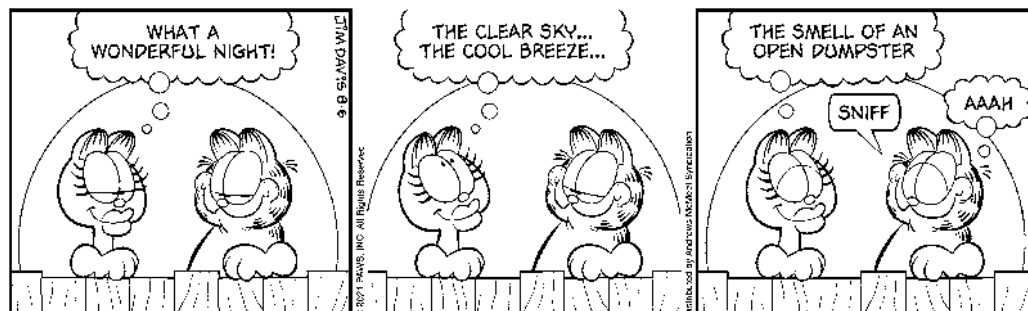
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



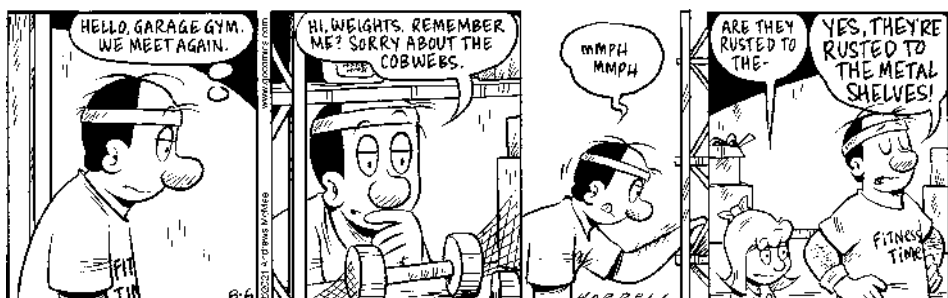
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Catch red-handed
4 Buckle
8 Hara —
12 Blackbird
13 Pot starter
14 Sleuth Wolfe
15 Holden Caulfield's creator
17 Fired
18 Reps
19 Ref
21 Bit of butter
22 Weak-ened
26 Sun block?
29 "Mangia!"
30 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
31 Politico Trent
32 Cardinal cap letters
33 Swiss river
34 Spanish gold
35 Mis-behaving

DOWN

1 "Apollo" 13" org.
2 Scrambled wd.
3 Vitriol
4 Hires listing
5 Uneasy feeling
6 GPS suggestion
7 Reading
8 "There's — for that"
9 Puzzle
10 Hot temper
11 Lay down the lawn
16 Suggestions
20 Yoga pad
23 Stage show
24 Green land
25 Union payment
26 Lummo
27 Petty of "Tank Girl"
28 Okla-homa tribe
29 Timetable abbr.
32 Port near Naples
33 Arcade pioneer
35 Spell-off
36 Stock units
38 Hogwarts professor
39 Pie fruit
42 Capital on a fjord
43 "Dragnet" org.
44 Otherwise
45 Likely
46 Sine — non
47 Last (Abbr.)
49 Aachen article

Solution time: 25 mins.

T	A	C	O	G	L	A	D	C	A	B
E	L	A	L	U	C	L	A	O	V	O
C	O	H	I	A	N	D	E	H	I	D
H	E	A	V	E	N	I	E	L	D	Y
E	R	K	E	H	R	U				
D	O	C	S	M	U	D	A	R	M	S
E	C	O		U	R	N				
E	T	R	E	I	S	A	D	Y	C	S
				S	T	O	R	E	G	O
I	M	A	C	S						
K	E	G		C	O	R	V	E	T	T
E	W	E		A	S	A	P	E	T	A
A	S	S		R	E	D	S			

Yesterday's answer 8-6

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Vera Farmiga, 48; Geri Halliwell, 49; M. Night Shyamalan, 51; Michelle Yeoh, 59.

Happy Birthday: Distance yourself from inconsistency and people who are erratic or disruptive or who take you for granted. Build an environment conducive to success and happiness. Be the pillar of strength. Strive for perfection, reach your goal and make decisions that encourage others to stand by your side and support your efforts. The decisions you make will change your life for years to come. Your numbers are 9, 14, 22, 28, 31, 39, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get all the facts before you say or do something you may regret. Make plans with someone who brings out the best in you. An activity that challenges you mentally will help you make a good impression on someone influential. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do your research before you make changes. An impulsive move will leave you in a precarious position and eager to backtrack. Don't let stubbornness keep you from making better decisions. Listen to reason, then make the necessary adjustments. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take better care of your health and well-being. Indulgent behavior will come at a cost. If you need help, seek reliable people who will look out for your best interests. Learn from your mistakes, and find productive outlets. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your emotions to your advantage. Your intuitive insight will guide you to make better

decision, and the changes that will improve your relationships with friends, relatives or your lover. Personal improvements will spruce up your looks and your surroundings. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put your strength and courage where it has the most significant impact. Search for hidden opportunities and set goals using your imagination and intuition. Consider the changes going on around you as an asset, not a restriction. Progress depends on your response. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The people you associate with will influence the way you think, feel and act. Choose your partners and friends based on how you play off one another and the outcome you achieve when you work side by side. Romance is favored. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use social settings to get to the bottom of sensitive issues. Make your point clear, but be willing to listen to the other side of the story. Making a fair assessment will encourage those you deal with to meet you halfway. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Contradictions and inconsistency will lead to a stalemate. Best to start on the right foot and be as precise and honest as possible. Persuasive charm will get you further ahead in your talks than false accusations. Self-improvement is encouraged. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Confusion will set in if you don't openly and honestly discuss what concerns you. Offering a false impression or inconsistency regarding

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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your feelings for someone will end up putting you in a precarious position. Face facts. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Pay attention to what's going on around you. Focus on health, fitness and investing more time and money into gains. Bring passion into your life, nurture relationships and be willing to entertain unique concepts and different lifestyles. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A realistic attitude will be helpful when it comes to responsibilities and doing your part. Sign up only for what you can handle and offer what you can afford. Don't feel obligated to match what someone else offers. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A creative approach to how you do things and the associates you align yourself with will encourage new and exciting ideas. A meaningful relationship with someone who shares your beliefs is favored. Love is in the stars. *****

Birthday Baby: You are wise, steady and motivated. You are secretive and persuasive.

© Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ** You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. *** Focus and you'll reach your goals. **** Aim high; start new projects. ***** Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4								7
				2	6			
1	7							2
	1		8		3			6
	9			6			3	
			5		4		7	
8	3						6	9
9			1	5				5

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/06

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	2	4	7	6	5	3	1	9
9	5	3	8	2	1	7	6	4
7	1	6	9	3	4	8	2	5
4	3	2	1	7	6	5	9	8
1	9	8	4	5	3	6	7	2
5	6	7	2	8	9	1	4	3
3	8	9	6	1	2	4	5	7
2	7	1	5	4	8	9	3	6
6	4	5	3	9	7	2	8	1

Difficulty Level ★★

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE

Solution: 6 letters

K I O W L S D D T E L L A S N
C A D N G I L K A T N A H A H
H O N N N B Q L B U C A C L C
U D C G U I E O M R R I C A N
N A O K A M O B O K L E S O I
T E E K A R A P W E U S M K F
S H P C A T O R P P O S S U M
M D W L S M I O R W O R K T S
A R L E A G L E A A E D R E A
N A T G E T L R L D B A X T N
W H P O K B Y I I G N A G U D
L I Z A R D I P D N F T O R I
E K A N S R S L U E A A R T H
N O J N O M A D L S R W F L C
Y B B A Y S U P O T C O S E E

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8/6

Barramundi, Camel, Cane, Cassowary, Cockatoo, Dingo, Dote, Eagle, Echidna, Emu, Finch, Foxes, Frog, Glider, Hardhead, Huntsman, Ibis, Kangaroo, Koalas, Lizard, Magpie, Monjon, Ngilkat, Numbats, Octopus, Orca, Owls, Parakeet, Parrot, Pelican, Platypus, Possum, Shark, Snake, Spiders, Swan, Toad, Turtle, Wallaroo, Weebie, Wombat, Yabby

Yesterday's Answer: Lessons

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-842-6480.

US routs Australia 97-78, to play for more basketball gold

SAITAMA, Japan (AP)—Kevin Durant and the Americans still have their grip on gold and it's going to take more than a few bad minutes for anyone to take it away from them.

They were awful early, then awesome afterward against Australia.

Durant scored 23 points, Devin Booker had 20 and the U.S. blew past and eventually blew away the Aussies 97-78 on Thursday in the Olympic men's basketball semifinals after falling into a 15-point hole.

With their gold-medal streak looking in jeopardy midway through the second quarter, the Americans overwhelmed the Australians with a 48-14 stretch that gave them a 74-55 lead after three periods.

"Everything fell in line for us in that second half and that's who we are," Durant said.

The U.S. missed its first 10 3-point attempts and didn't hit one until late in the second quarter. Then it felt as if the Americans hardly missed again, with Booker making three 3-pointers.

Jrue Holiday had 11 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the U.S., which will play European champion Slovenia or France for a fourth straight gold medal Saturday.



The French beat the Americans 83-76 in their Olympic opener.

That was part of a 2-3 start to the summer for the U.S., which included a loss to the Australians in an exhibition game in Las Vegas.

The Americans don't look like that team anymore.

They look like the best team in the world, like those that used to win gold with ease.

Patty Mills scored 15 points for Australia, which still needs a win for its first Olympic basketball medal.

The Australians have finished fourth four times at the

Olympics, including in 2016, but believed this time they could bring home gold.

For 1 1/2 quarters, it looked like they'd get a chance.

They dropped the Americans into a double-digit deficit for the second straight game, outplaying the world's No. 1-ranked team and looking capable of forcing the U.S. to settle for anything other than Olympic gold for the first time since the Americans stumbled home with bronze in 2004.

But the U.S. recovered and romped, improving to 9-0 against Australia at the Olympics.

"They hit us with a nice punch," Durant said. "We knew that team was going to get us down early and see how we'd respond."

The minutes before the first semifinal were another unusual scene in these most unusual Olympics, where the public address announcer pleaded multiple times for players to clear the court while Durant and Mills were warming up so a robot that entertains the almost-nonexistent audience could perform his shooting routine before the game.

The robot missed both his attempts from halfcourt. His

long-range shooting was off.

So were the Americans, at least for a little while.

The Australians patiently ran their offensive sets but weren't afraid to run with the U.S., turning a steal into Joe Ingles' second straight 3-pointer in a 6-2 start.

But there were signs that Mills, who came into the game averaging 20.8 points, was just a little off his game. A jumper rolled around and out, a layup hung on the rim and then fell off. He finished just 5 of 14.

It didn't matter early, as the Australians opened an eight-point lead while the Americans managed only one basket over a span of more than four minutes. Australia took a 24-18 lead into the second quarter after Chris Goulding made a 3-pointer in the closing seconds.

The U.S. kept misfiring from behind the arc and even had some shaky moments at the rim—Khris Middleton had an open dunk attempt, coming off the baseline he slammed the ball into the front of the rim.

The Australians took advantage with eight straight points midway through the second. Dante Exum made a 3-pointer, Matisse Thybulle converted a three-point player after scoring on the break and Exum threw a lob to Jock Landale to make it 41-26 with 5:23 to go.

■ And Sydney McLaughlin of the U.S., who set the world record (51.46) and beat Dalilah Muhammad in a race that lived up to the hype.

Allyson Felix advanced into the final of the 400 meters, though the nine-time Olympic medalist acknowledged this isn't like it used to be.

"You get older," said the 35-year-old Felix, "and it seems like it's harder."

De Grasse went through injuries and setbacks in virtually every year since his close calls in Rio. He admits there were times when he wondered if he'd ever make it to the top step of the podium.

"Worth the wait, definitely," he said.

Quite an accomplishment for a one-time point guard who got into track on a whim. On the bus in high school, he bumped into a friend, who challenged him to come out to the track. De Grasse thought he could beat his buddy, so he went out in his basketball shorts, started from a standing position and finished in 10.9.

An Olympic bronze medalist from 1984, Tony Sharpe, was sitting in the stands that day, looking for new talent. He saw that race and said, "Who is this guy?"

That was in 2012.

Now it's 2021, and nobody is asking anymore.

TOKYO (AP)—Perhaps the world's next sprint star wasn't so hard to find after all.

He's Andre De Grasse, the Canadian who ran his first sprint as a teen in baggy basketball shorts and borrowed spikes, and now has an Olympic gold medal in the 200 meters.

De Grasse powered past a pair of Americans—Kenny Bednarek and the favorite, Noah Lyles—to finish in 19.62 seconds Wednesday and take one of the titles that Usain Bolt had owned for the previous three Olympics.

It ends a string of close calls for the 26-year-old and fills out a medal collection that was only missing gold. De Grasse won bronze four nights earlier in the 100 to go with the third-place medal he took in that event in Rio de Janeiro.

Given all he's been through, it was no surprise when he revealed that he'd been crying behind the bronze—or were they gold—colored shades he wore for the race.

"It's my first time being so emotional on the track," De Grasse said. "I always thought I came up short winning bronze and silver, so it's just good to have that gold medal. No one can take that away from me."

The most memorable of De Grasse's near misses came in

In 200, De Grasse finally gets his gold

2016, when he took silver in the 200-meters in Rio, and had the audacity to mess with Bolt.

It was a semifinal race and the two were far ahead of the field and easily going to make the medal race. But on instructions from his coach, who wanted to wear out the champ, De Grasse kept pushing. It forced Bolt to kick things back into overdrive.

Bolt won the race but playfully wagged his finger at De Grasse. The moment went viral, and Bolt insisted he wasn't pleased. He came back to blow away De Grasse in the final, by nearly a quarter second, but the champion suggested the extra energy didn't help in his futile quest to re-set his world record of 19.19.

"I came back for that final and I was gassed, tired," De Grasse said. "I looked to my side, and I said I'm going to have to get second. I can't catch him."

Lesson learned, and since Bolt left the scene, De Grasse said he's only gotten stronger and more fit. Meanwhile, the world has been looking for someone, anyone, to take the former champion's place in the marquee track events.

On Sunday night, Italian sprinter Marcell Jacobs came

from nowhere to win the 100, leaving De Grasse behind in what is usually considered his second-best distance.

But finally, De Grasse has cashed in. It's his first gold at a major event after amassing two silvers and six bronzes at Olympics and world championships since 2015.

"It's persistence," said decathlon leader Damian Warner, who hung out near the track to watch his Canadian teammate win. "He's had to go against Usain Bolt, Yohan Blake, all these tough competitors. So it's not like he's just choking or losing in the final. He's losing to some really great athletes."

This time, he beat some—most notably, Lyles, the reigning world champion at 200 meters who has been on a difficult road to the Tokyo Olympics. He openly talked about his mental-health issues and the anguish of coming to the Games without his brother, Josephus, who is also a sprinter but failed to qualify.

At one point this summer, Lyles appeared headed for an attempt at a 100-200 double. But his 100 at Olympic trials was a mess, and his best race of the season was the 200 final in Eugene, Oregon.

But the Australians got only one basket from there and will look back at that stretch if they again go home without a medal. They still led by 11 with 2:59 to go but the Americans got the final eight points and were a missed 3 from Jayson Tatum from tying it at the half, with Australia bringing a 45-42 edge to the locker room.

Then the Americans came back with two baskets from Holiday and two more from Durant. By the time the Australians got a basket nearly four minutes into the half, the U.S. had opened a nine-point lead.

The Americans closed the quarter with a 15-2 push that turned a six-point lead into a 74-55 cushion.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

2020 TOKYO OLYMPICS MEDAL COUNT				
	G	S	B	TOT
China	33	24	16	73
United States	27	34	24	85
Japan	21	7	13	41
Australia	17	4	18	39
ROC	15	21	19	55
Britain	15	18	16	49
Germany	9	9	16	34
New Zealand	7	4	6	17
Italy	6	10	16	32
France	6	10	9	25
Netherlands	6	8	9	23
South Korea	6	4	9	19
Hungary	5	7	3	15
Cuba	5	3	4	12
Canada	4	5	7	16
Brazil	4	4	8	16
Czech Republic	4	3	2	9
Switzerland	3	4	5	12
Poland	3	3	4	10
Croatia	3	3	2	8
Jamaica	3	1	3	7
Taiwan	2	4	5	11
Denmark	2	2	4	8
Sweden	2	5	0	7
Georgia	2	4	1	7
Norway	2	2	1	5
Iran	2	1	1	4
Slovenia	2	1	1	4
Ecuador	2	1	0	3
Greece	2	0	1	3
Uzbekistan	2	0	1	3
Kosovo	2	0	0	2
Qatar	2	0	0	2
Ukraine	1	2	9	12
Spain	1	4	5	10
Serbia	1	1	4	6
Turkey	1	0	5	6
Kenya	1	2	2	5
Austria	1	1	3	5
Indonesia	1	1	3	5
Romania	1	3	0	4
Venezuela	1	3	0	4
Hong Kong	1	2	1	4
Portugal	1	1	2	4
Slovakia	1	2	0	3
South Africa	1	2	0	3
Belgium	1	1	1	3
Ethiopia	1	1	1	3
Philippines	1	1	1	3
Uganda	1	1	1	3
Ireland	1	0	2	3
Israel	1	0	2	3
Tunisia	1	1	0	2
Belarus	1	0	1	2
Estonia	1	0	1	2
Fiji	1	0	1	2
Latvia	1	0	1	2
Thailand	1	0	1	2
Bermuda	1	0	0	1
Morocco	1	0	0	1
Puerto Rico	1	0	0	1
Kazakhstan	0	0	5	5
India	0	1	3	4
Armenia	0	2	1	3
Colombia	0	2	1	3
Dominican Republic	0	2	1	3
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	1	3
Mongolia	0	1	2	3
Azerbaijan	0	0	3	3
Egypt	0	0	3	3
Mexico	0	0	3	3
Bulgaria	0	1	1	2
Nigeria	0	1	1	2
San Marino	0	1	1	2
Finland	0	0	2	2
Jordan	0	1	0	1
Namibia	0	1	0	1
Macedonia	0	1	0	1
Turkmenistan	0	1	0	1
Argentina	0	0	1	1
Burkina Faso	0	0	1	1
Ivory Coast	0	0	1	1
Ghana	0	0	1	1
Kuwait	0	0	1	1
Malaysia	0	0	1	1
Syria	0	0	1	1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rizzo homers again, Yankees overpower Orioles, 10-3



NEW YORK

(AP)—Recently acquired Anthony Rizzo homered again, DJ LeMahieu drove in four runs and the New York Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles 10-3 on Wednesday night.

Rizzo's solo homer in the fourth inning made him the first player in Yankees history with at least one RBI in each of his first six games with the club.

Rizzo became just the fourth player in the majors over the last 70 years to do it—Bobby Murcer drove in a run in his first seven games with the Chicago Cubs in 1977 and Jimmy Wynn (Dodgers, 1974) and Jim Spencer (Texas, 1973) did it six in a row, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Sent from the Cubs to the Yankees last Thursday, a day before the trade deadline, Rizzo hit his 17th home run of the season and third for the Yankees. He has six homers in his last 10 games overall.

LeMahieu had three hits and Giancarlo Stanton drove in three runs for the Yankees, who routed the Orioles 13-1 on Tuesday. At 58-49 the Yankees matched their season high of nine games over .500, set May 23 when they were 28-19.

Jonathan Loaisiga (8-4) got two outs for the win. Yankees starter Jameson Taillon struck out 10 in 6 1/3 innings.

Ryan Mountcastle hit his 19th homer and a sacrifice fly to put Baltimore ahead 3-0 in the fourth. Cole Sulser (3-2) was the loser.

Dodgers 7, Astros 5

In Los Angeles, Max Scherzer struck out 10 in his Dodgers debut and got plenty of offensive support as Los Angeles hit four home runs to defeat Houston.

Mookie Betts homered twice, while Will Smith and AJ Pollock also went deep off Astros starter Jake Odorizzi (4-6).

Michael Brantley, Carlos Correa and Kyle Tucker connected for Houston. It was the third game at Dodger Stadium since July 10 with seven or more home runs.

Scherzer (9-4) went seven innings and tied a season high with 109 pitches, including 73 strikes. He gave up two runs and five hits with a walk.

Scherzer, Joe Kelly and Kenley Jansen combined for 15 strikeouts.

Mets 5, Marlins 3

In Miami, Javier Báez hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning after scoring on a nifty slide in the second, and New York beat Miami to snap a three-game losing streak.

The Mets, who had lost five of six, let an early 3-0 lead slip away but recovered to maintain their 1 1/2-game lead in the NL East over surging Philadelphia.

Báez, acquired in a trade-deadline deal with the Chicago Cubs last Friday, put New York back in front 4-3 with an opposite-field drive off Anthony Bass (1-7) that sailed on a line into the front row of seats in right. It was his 24th home run this season and second with his new team.

Miguel Castro (3-3) worked a hitless inning for the victory. Trevor



New York Yankees' Anthony Rizzo watches the ball after hitting a solo home run in the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021, in New York.

AP

May earned his fourth save, after regular closer Edwin Díaz was placed on the paternity list earlier in the day.

Jesús Aguilar homered for Miami.

Athletics 5, Padres 4, 10 innings

In Oakland, Calif., Matt Olson hit a two-run, walk-off double in the 10th inning and Oakland rallied to beat San Diego.

The A's scored twice in the ninth with two outs off closer Mark Melancon to tie it at 3.

After San Diego scored a run in the top of the 10th off Lou Trivino (4-4) to take a 4-3 lead, Olson came to the plate with runners on the corners and no outs.

Olson laced the first pitch he saw from Tim Hill (5-6) off the right field wall, scoring Mark Canha and Starling Marte, and sending the Oakland Coliseum into a frenzy. Oakland had its major league-leading ninth walk-off win of the season.

The Padres carried a 3-1 lead to the ninth, but Melancon couldn't convert the save, surrendering two-out, RBI singles to Matt Chapman and Yan Gomes.

Jed Lowrie hit a solo homer in the A's second.

Giants 7, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Kevin Gausman threw six stellar innings, Alex Dickerson added a three-run homer and San Francisco beat Arizona.

Gausman (10-5) gave up five hits, walked none and struck out eight. He cruised through the first five innings before running into trouble in the sixth. Asdrúbal Cabrera tagged Gausman for an RBI single.

Arizona starter Zac Gallen (1-6) took the loss, giving up three earned runs over 5 2/3 innings. He allowed a solo homer by Donovan Solano in the fourth and gave up four hits and three walks while striking out six.

Angels 2, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, Shohei Ohtani pitched six solid innings, Juan Lagares raced home from second base on a

wild pitch for the lead with the two-way standout at the plate, and Los Angeles beat Texas.

Jack Mayfield went 3 for 3 while homering from the No. 9 spot for the second consecutive night. His sixth homer was a solo shot in the fifth that gave Ohtani the extra run he needed as the Japanese star won for the third time in four starts.

Ohtani (6-1) allowed four hits and struck out six without a walk. Ohtani has a 2.93 ERA this season. He leads the majors with 37 home runs.

Raisel Iglesias got a game-ending double play from Andy Ibáñez for his 23rd save in 28 chances. Kolby Allard (2-10) was he loser.

Rays 4, Mariners 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Randy Arozarena had a two-run triple during a three-run third and AL East-leading Tampa Bay beat Seattle to avoid a season series sweep.

The Rays went 1-6 overall against Seattle, losing the first two games of the three-game set.

Josh Fleming (9-5) allowed two runs and five hits, and Mike Zunino hit his 21st homer for the Rays. Ryan Sherriff, the third Tampa Bay reliever, worked the ninth to get his first save.

Mariners rookie Logan Gilbert (5-3) gave up three runs, four hits and four walks over five innings. Seattle had won 11 consecutive games, dating to May 25, when Gilbert started. The right-hander was 5-0 during the stretch.

Red Sox 4, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Eduardo Rodríguez struck out 10 in five shutout innings and Boston beat Detroit to snap a five-game losing streak.

Rodríguez (8-6) allowed two hits and four walks in helping Boston end its longest losing streak of the season. J.D. Martinez, Enrique Hernández and Jarren Duran homered for the Red Sox.

Boston pitchers struck out 18 batters, with Matt Barnes getting two as he pitched a perfect ninth for

his 24th save in 28 chances.

Jonathan Schoop homered for Detroit. Casey Mize (6-6) was the loser.

Brewers 4, Pirates 2

In Milwaukee, pinch-hitter Rowdy Tellez launched a three-run homer with two outs in the seventh inning to help Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh.

Tellez is batting .340 (18 of 53) with five homers and 16 RBIs in 21 games since the Brewers acquired him from Toronto on July 6. He hit .209 with four homers and eight RBIs in 50 games with the Blue Jays.

Brent Suter (10-5) pitched one inning of scoreless relief. Devin Williams worked around a leadoff walk in the ninth to earn his first career save. Kyle Keller (0-1) was the loser.

Royals 9, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Salvador Pérez hit a two-run homer and Kansas City went deep four times to beat Chicago.

Kansas City ended a four-game losing streak, while the AL Central-leading White Sox lost for the eighth time in 13 games.

Royals starter Carlos Hernández (3-1) yielded only two hits over five innings in beating the White Sox for the second time in seven days. Pérez launched his 27th homer in the third, tying his career high previously accomplished in 2017 and 2018.

Edward Olivares hit his second homer in three games, a solo shot in the second off Chicago starter Lucas Giolito. Michael A. Taylor led off the fourth with a homer against Giolito (8-8) and made a diving catch in center field to rob Cesar Hernandez of a hit in the sixth. Taylor snapped an 0-for-14 slump with a drive that struck the left-field foul pole.

Blue Jays 8, Indians 6

In Toronto, George Springer hit his 42nd career leadoff home run for the first of his four hits, Steven Matz pitched six shutout innings and Toronto beat Cleveland.

Springer connected on J.C. Mejia's first pitch for his 13th homer of the season. He singled and scored in the

second, hit a two-run double in the third and singled again in the fifth. Needing a triple to complete the cycle, Springer flied out in the eighth.

Matz (9-6) gave up six hits, all singles. He walked one and struck out eight. Mejia (1-7) allowed seven hits and matched a career worst by giving up eight runs in 2 1/3 innings.

Cleveland's Jose Ramirez and Oscar Mercado hit solo homers off Jordan Romano in the ninth.

Phillies 9, Nationals 4

In Washington, Rhys Hoskins homered and drove in three runs, Didi Gregorius hit a two-run homer and Philadelphia beat Washington for its fourth straight victory.

Nationals reliever Jeffry Rodríguez hit Hoskins with an up-and-in pitch in the top of the seventh. Hoskins motioned to the Phillies' dugout, then looked at Rodríguez before going to first base. Gregorius hit a 412-foot home run on the next pitch.

Luis García and Carter Kieboom hit back-to-back homers against Philadelphia starter Chase Anderson in the second. Victor Robles homered on Anderson's first pitch of the night. García also homered in the seventh for his first career multi-homer game.

Matt Moore (1-3) was the winner. Washington starter Paolo Espino (3-3) allowed six earned in his five innings.

Reds 6, Twins 5

In Cincinnati, Luis Castillo pitched six effective innings, Tyler Stephenson homered and Cincinnati held on to beat Minnesota.

Castillo (6-10) allowed Jorge Polanco's first-inning solo homer but settled in nicely from there, allowing six hits and one walk while striking out seven to win his third straight start. Michael Lorenzen came in for a five-out save, his first of the season after making just one appearance over the first three months because of injuries.

Charlie Barnes (0-2) took the loss.

Braves 7, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Adam Duvall and Jorge Soler homered, and Stephen Vogt drove in the eventual winning run with a sacrifice fly in Atlanta's victory over St. Louis.

Dansby Swanson went 4 for 4 with three runs to help the Braves move to .500 at 54-54. Chris Martin (1-3) was the winner, and Will Smith, the sixth Braves' pitcher, picked up his 22nd save with a 1-2-3 ninth.

Giovanny Gallegos took the loss. Nolan Arenado hit a three-run homer in the first inning for St. Louis.

Cubs 3, Rockies 2

In Denver, Patrick Wisdom hit a three-run double to back a solid outing from Alec Mills and lead Chicago past Colorado.

Mills (5-4) overcame a rocky start to pitch six innings and earn his first win since July 7, and Wisdom finished with three hits.

Manuel Rodríguez gave up a two-out single in the ninth but got Sam Hilliard on a comebacker to pick up his first career save. Rockies starter Jon Gray (7-7) was the loser.



Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association president Somia Quan, right, in action during one of the drills in the recent volleyball camp conducted by FIVB Level III certified coach and Oceania Sports Education master educator Mike Rabago at the Agape Gymnasium along Middle Road in Gualo Rai. **MARK RABAGO**

Wanted: National volleyball coaches

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With exactly 345 days to go before the start of the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games, local sports federations are about to shift into high gear to form their national teams.

The Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association is one such sports federation and the first step in organizing any men's and women's national team is the naming of coaches.

To this end, NMIVA president Somia Quan is requesting all interested individuals to submit their names for the CNMI national men's and women's beach volleyball teams for the Pacific Mini Games.

Individuals that would like to participate as a coach or player are encouraged to email nmivolleyball@gmail.com for questions or more information, according to Quan.

She earlier said that the series of volleyball clinics conducted by FIVB Level III certified coach and Oceania



Sports Education master educator Mike Rabago brought out not only potential national players but also coaches that assisted the Team Guam coach in the drills.

A total of 64 athletes have so far registered for the beach volleyball competition of the Mini Games, which the CNMI will be hosting for the very first time from July 17 to 25, 2022. The venue for the beach volleyball competition will be the Crowne Plaza Resort beach front.

The NMIVA president also said before that aside from beach volleyball coaches for next year's Mini Games, they are also on the lookout for coaches that will guide the CNMI 6x6 indoor volleyball men's and women's national teams for the 2022 Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands.

Aside from beach volleyball, also in the calendar for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games are tennis, weightlifting, va'a, athletics, baseball, badminton, golf, and triathlon.

"Activities like this help us, sports federations, reach out to our youth and promote our programs," Lee said.

Meanwhile, parents and guardians of camp participants are grateful that SSS, the TSL Foundation, the four sports federations, and the CNMI Public School System were able to work together and provide a program for their kids. The CNMI Public School System provided meals to camp participants.

"As a parent, I am happy that my son looks forward to going to the summer camp instead of playing with his gadgets when school is on break. He loves it here and enjoys interacting with the coaches and kids of his age. We will definitely comeback next year," said Lala Agustino, whose son Jayden attended the badminton lessons of the camp. **(PR)**

MATANSA

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minute and the second in the 53rd, while Linn found his target in the 22nd minute.

'Felt great to have fans in attendance'

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



One of the benefits of being on Level Green in the Community Vulnerability chart is spectator sports is back and this development was welcomed with open arms by 2021 NMI Rollers Summer Bash tournament director Ethan Kwon.

"As the tournament director, it felt great to have fans in attendance. One of our goals for this tournament was to give the parents, who haven't been able to attend either of our last two tournaments, a chance to come out and watch their kids play," he said.

Kwon said aside from successfully holding the 2021 NMI Rollers Summer Bash last July 23-25, the biggest takeaway is that after more than a year of no spectators sports due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the crowd was back at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

"It was great to see the parents come out and watch, especially since they are the ones who are committed to making sure their kids come to practices and have fun. Overall it was a great turnout and



The U15 finals between the Miami Heat and the Los Angeles Sparks in the 2021 NMI Rollers Summer Bash last July 25 was historic cause it marked the first time an all-girls squad advanced to the championship. **MARK RABAGO**

we hope to keep it going."

The recent tournament was historic in a way after it marked the first time an all-girls teams advanced to the championship on the U15 division. This, after the Los Angeles Sparks upset the Utah Jazz, 14-13, in the semifinals that arranged a championship matchup against the unscathed Miami Heat. The Sparks eventually lost to the Heat, 9-30,

in the finals but second place couldn't have been sweeter for coach Marlene Lumabi's girls.

NMI Rollers Club coordinator Dave Apatang said he was just happy to have witnessed how the Sparks made a first not only in Rollers basketball history but even perhaps CNMI history.

"From my recollection the girls haven't had any opportunities to make it to the cham-

pionships. This is actually the first time the Roller girls are in the championship. I'm very proud because these girls don't back down. They're not afraid of the boys," he said.

Apatang said the Sparks morphing into a championship contender didn't come overnight and he was there first hand to see it from Day 1.

"What it was is just strong defense, great teamwork with the passes, and just superior basketball IQ. These girls worked hard! Coach Joe [Diaz], coach Marlene, and I we all came together and worked on their shooting and basketball IQ and it's really showing in the tournament we had," he said.

Aside from the Heat winning the U15 championship in the 2021 NMI Rollers Summer Bash, the Warriors nipped the Phoenix Suns in a two-game finals for the U12 also last July 25. The Suns managed to force a winner-take-all Game 2 after upsetting the Warriors in the first game, 17-13, earlier in the day. The U9 Golden State Warriors then duplicated their older brothers' championship in the U12 by taking home the title in their division after defeating the Phoenix Suns, 24-18.

Pacific Cup tryouts this weekend

Tryouts for Oceania Cycling Confederation's Pacific Cup will be held this Saturday, Aug. 7, in Marpi.

The tryout will be 10 miles or 16.09 kilometers and will start at Banzai Cliff before proceeding south to the Mobil Oil gas station in Tanapag and turn back toward Banzai Cliff. The race will have a go

time of exactly at 6am.

The tryout will determine the CNMI's delegates to the Pacific Cup set in Guam on Dec. 10 and 12, 2022. The Pacific Cup will have a time trial on Dec. 10 and the 105-km road race will be held two days later on Dec. 12.

According to the Oceania Cycling Confederation, eli-

gibility criteria for the Pacific Cup are the following:

- Competitors must be members of a Pacific national federation affiliated with Oceania CC

- Competitors must be 19 years of age or older in 2021

- Competitors must be citizens of the country they are representing or have resident status in that country for a continuous period of four years up to the event

- Maximum entries from any one national is five riders in any one event

Registration closes today, Aug. 6, 2021, and no extension/no race day registration will be entertained. To register, copy and paste https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=249371&fbclid=IwAR06bvicS7kH5nfaEff5-eLntmPgR7vK2ogfevMosOHg-Nd_y_bWd9q54kU. **(Mark Rabago)**

ANTONIO

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Awards Banquet.

May was highlighted by the CNMI Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships, the Division of Youth Services/Typhoon Sports 3v3 Basketball Tournament, the Paupau Taga Triathlon, and the Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation Sprint Competition.

Antonio won the 60-and-above age group division of the Paupau Taga Triathlon last May. Despite an extended leave of absence from sports due to health concerns, Antonio was able to outpace his younger rivals. Antonio has bounced back from setbacks and is back onto the triathlon and multi-sport race scene. He is an active member of numerous community organizations.

Male student of the month Dela Cruz is a well-rounded,



Marianas Outrigger Club members pose for a group photo after one of their recent competitions. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

passionate, and determined point guard from the Typhoon Sports Association on Tinian. He played for Team Natural in the May 2021 Division of Youth Services/Typhoon Sports 3v3 Basketball Tournament and had a huge role in their championship win. He averaged double figures in points and rebounds, earning him the Most Valuable Player and Top Scorer awards in the U20 division. He not only displayed

great teamwork and sportsmanship; he also helped build team spirit and boost team performance. Dela Cruz will be a senior at Tinian High School in the Fall and plans to continue playing basketball and join future tournaments.

During the recent PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships, Cruz performed outstandingly as a freshman by winning all three sprint events—100m at

13.50 seconds, 200m at 28.90 seconds, and 400m at 1:09.95 minutes. She is part of the Northern Marianas Athletics Under 18 development squad. During training and competition, she displayed true sportsmanship toward her fellow competitors, teammates, coaches, and officials.

Marianas Outrigger Club, meanwhile, always embodied team culture based around hard work, perseverance, and sportsmanship. The team did not compete for three years due to lack of funding, unavailability of races to compete in, and the pandemic. Nonetheless, the MOC continued to train at the crack of dawn three times each week. On May 29, the training paid off with MOC sweeping the Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation Sprint Competition winning all four events of the day, including two 500m races and two 1,500m races. **(Saipan Tribune)**

**US routs Australia
97-78, to play
for more
basketball gold**
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Saipan Tribune Sports



**'Felt great
to have
fans in
attendance'**
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24 FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Participants, coaches, volunteers, and guests of the Summer Sports Camps 2021 pose for a photo during the event's recognition ceremony last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Summer Sports Camp draws over 150

The Summer Sports Camp 2021 organized by Saipan Soccer School and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation had a triumphant return with more than 150 children participating in the nearly month-long event.

The summer camp, which missed its 2020 edition due to the COVID-19 pandemic, concluded this year's sessions last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex with participants awarded completion medals and gift bags.

"We are pleased with the resounding success of this year's summer camp and are very happy to be able to offer a worthwhile program for our children especially at this time of the pandemic. We look forward to seeing them again next year and welcoming new



participants," said SSS and TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, who thanked the volunteers and coaches that ran the program from July 6 to 30.

This year's summer camp offered four sports for the first time—volleyball, badminton, soccer, and basketball—and each federation that worked with the organizers in conducting lessons and fun games are thankful for the opportunity to promote their respective sports. "We've been doing vol-

leyball clinics for high school students for the past few months so having this camp for younger kids allows us to bring our program to the grassroots level. It's great to teach the fundamentals of volleyball to children to give them a strong foundation," said Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president Somia Quan, who was joined by NMIVA general secretary Shawn Davis and other volunteers in presenting medals to camp participants.

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee, NMI Rollers Basketball Club players/volunteers, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ross Zapanta, executive director Ruselle Zapanta, and coach Angie Ito, and Northern Marianas Bad-

See SUMMER on Page 23



Matansa Football Club's Tawny Barcinas, center, faces two Southern United Football Club defenders during their game in the Intermediate Division of the Dove Women's Summer League 2021 last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matansa, Paire top foes

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Matansa Football Club and Paire Football Club recorded contrasting victories in the Intermediate Division games in the Dove Women's Summer League 2021 last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Matansa eased past Southern United FC in the first game, 6-2, while Paire edged Kanoa in the second match in the division, 1-0.

Alyssa Pourmonir made the lone goal for Paire when she hit her target in the 25th

minute of the match.

In the other match, Alleny Tenorio delivered a hat trick for Matansa, which drew one goal apiece from Tawny Barcinas, Wasana Gregory, and Bunruang Brasuell. Tenorio lit up the board first with her goal in the 13th minute, while her last two were recorded in the 28th and 42nd. Barcinas, Gregory, and Brasuell scored in the 21st, 35th, and 40th minute, respectively. Angel Roligat tallied the pair of goals for Southern United, earning her first in the 25th minute and the last in the 44th.

NOVICE DIVISION

Paire-1 2, Matansa 0

Paire-1 notched their first win

in the division after outclassing Matansa last weekend.

Pam Walsh and Astrid Poole handed Paire the twin goals with the former drawing first blood in the 17th minute and the latter scoring 26 minutes later.

In the other match in the division, TanHoldings and Kanoa settled for a scoreless draw.

MEN'S SOCCER SUMMER LEAGUE

Island Star 3, Shirley's 2
Zhi Peng Lin and Zhixiang Linn lifted Island Star to a close win over Shirley's last Friday.

Lin bagged a pair of goals, getting his first in the seventh
See MATANSA on Page 23



Antonio



Cruz



Dela Cruz

Antonio is top male athlete for May; Dela Cruz, Cruz get student athlete plums

» MOC wins Team of the Month



Triathlon's Florence Antonio was named Male Athlete of the Month for May, while teenagers Sir-Lashu Dela Cruz and Casey C. Cruz won male

and female students athletes of the month by the Northern Marianas Sports Association. Marianas Outrigger Club took home the NMSA Team of the Month award.

NMSA announced the ath-

letes/team of the month for May to highlight excellence among three athletes and a team across four sports during the month. Awardees are eligible to be named athletes/team of the year and will be recognized at the annual NMSA

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